

'Great success' for Customs

It is a gun, Ridley tells Commons

By Robin Oakley and Melinda Wittstock

EIGHT Iraq-bound steel tubes impounded at Teesport last week were part of a massive gun, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons yesterday.

"The Government is entirely satisfied that these tubes form part of a gun," he said, congratulating the Customs operation which identified and seized the components of a "large-calibre armament, albeit of a scale outside anything previously experienced".

Mr Ridley insisted that parts already exported could not form a full-sized gun and called the Customs action "a great success on behalf of this country".

His Commons statement raised as many questions as it settled, especially about when the Government first knew about the possible nature of the Iraqi order.

The clear implication of Mr Ridley's comments was that the first the Government had known was when Customs seized the steel tubes, but Sir Hil Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, said he had warned the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence and another agency "more than two years ago of the possible nature of the steel order placed with Walter Somers".

The company had offered to withdraw from the contract as it was too small to be profitable, Sir Hil said. He

had repeated the offer a year ago.

Later Sir Hil said on Channel 4's *Seven O'clock News* that he had approached the two ministries on behalf of Walter Somers because the company had been worried that it was being asked to make something military. The company's operations director, a skilled metallurgist, "felt that the work in question was not what it claimed to be".

MPs remained puzzled, too, about who gave the briefing that threw doubt on Customs reports that the tubes were part of a gun. Mr Gordon Brown, the shadow Secretary of State for Trade, said the "embarrassing episode" had made the Government an "object of ridicule".

Mr Ridley owed Customs men an apology for the way they had been subjected to "a week of hostile headlines and off-the-record criticism".

Customs officials have been in no doubt of the intended use of the tubes they seized from the Gur Mariner, which sailed for Iraq last night, although they believe it will be weeks before they can collect sufficient evidence to consider prosecution.

The Customs and Excise Department has received calls from firms other than those already identified, worried that work in which they have been involved could have been part of the gun project.

Last night the Government's defence spokesman, Mr Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, last night asked questions to the Ministry of Defence asking if the department had any information on the steel tubes order or on Dr Bull's firm before April 11.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, representatives of 13 Arab countries started a two-day emergency meeting to express support for Iraq against "a feverish mass media campaign to justify a new Israeli aggression against its scientific installations under the pretext that it possessed nuclear weapons".

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who earlier this month said it would use chemical weapons to "burn half of Israel" if it were attacked again, said yesterday that Iraq would attack any non-Arab country that struck at any part of the Arab world.

Mr Ridley told the Commons that Walter Somers and Sheffield Forgemasters had

approached the Department of Trade and Industry in 1988 to ask whether export licences were required for metal tubes they were making for Iraq and for Dr Bull's Space Research Corporation in Belgium.

"On the information available at that time, it was decided that the export licences were not needed for these goods."

"Until a few days ago, my department had no knowledge that the goods were designed to form part of a gun. The Government recently became aware of an Iraqi project to develop a long-range gun based on designs developed by the late Dr Gerald Bull. The goods seized at Teesport are consistent with what is known of Dr Bull's development. The Government is entirely satisfied that these tubes form part of a gun."

He congratulated Customs for stopping their export, but Mr Brown said the Government had been "deceived and duped on a grand scale", allowing through a weapon whose use could affect regional and even world stability.

He charged the Department of Trade and Industry with "sloppiness and complacency" of almost criminal dimensions, since it had had access to drawings and technical details and had known since 1988 of the involvement of Dr Bull's Space Research Corporation.

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Guiding lights: Stephanie Preston, aged 13, of Norbury, south London, and Sophie Tarrant, aged nine, of Brenchley, Kent, modelling the new uniforms, designed by Jeff Banks, for the Girl Guides and Brownies of the nineties. Report, page 24

Strike vote by power workers

By Ray Clancy

THE Government's programme to privatise the electricity industry could be affected by the decision yesterday of a third of Britain's power workers to vote for strike action over pay.

A dispute may lead to threats of disruption to supplies during the Government's campaign to move the industry into the private sector; flotation is expected in November.

Members of the EETPU, the biggest union involved in pay negotiations, voted by 12,771 to 8,184 in favour of a strike. In the same secret ballot they also voted overwhelmingly to take other action short of a strike.

In the ballot union members were asked to vote on an all-out strike and on industrial action short of a strike. The result in favour of both gives the union the option of using the threat of a strike but the action will probably begin with an overtime ban.

The result of ballots of the other three unions representing the rest of the country's power workers are likely today and a similar outcome is expected. Tomorrow leaders from all four engineering unions are meeting to discuss a joint strategy. Last month union negotiators rejected an improved 8.5 per cent offer from employers.

Revolt fading on Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's plan to boost confidence in Hong Kong by granting passports to 50,000 heads of household and their families is expected to clear its first hurdle in the Commons today.

The Conservative backbench revolt over the proposals was heading for defeat last night as it appeared that a combination of wavering Tory rebels, one of whose leaders is Mr Norman Tebbit, and support from opposition party MPs would be sufficient to give the Government a comfortable majority.

Although there were widely varying estimates at Westminster over the number of Conservative MPs who would carry through their threats to rebel in tonight's second reading vote on the British Na-

tionality (Hong Kong) Bill, there was agreement between the Government whips and the leaders of the revolt that the Government would win the day. A majority of up to 40 or even more is expected.

However, a closer vote is expected immediately afterwards when an Opposition motion to take all the detailed committee stages of the Bill on the floor of the Commons, a move that would clog up parliamentary business for weeks, is voted upon.

A defeat on that motion, which remained unlikely last night despite the possibility of a bigger rebel vote, would be damaging for the Government's hopes of getting the legislation through.

Today's full-day debate promises to be an impassioned affair with the Government under attack from some of its hitherto most loyal supporters and the Labour front-bench also facing criticism from its backbenchers for its line of opposing the Bill.

At least one Labour front-bench spokesman is understood to be preparing to defy the leadership line, provoking the risk of dismissal by Mr Neil Kinnock.

Between 20 and 30 Labour MPs, mainly on the far left but including some senior figures such as Mr Peter Shore, are likely to abstain rather than

Continued on page 24, col 4



Mr Tebbit Co-ordinating tactics for later fight

Lithuanian premier heads for Norway to buy oil

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

THE Lithuanian Prime Minister was on her way to Norway in search of oil supplies last night as Vilnius awaited President Gorbachov's threatened reduction of deliveries.

While Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene was en route for talks with oil suppliers, her parliament responded to Mr Gorbachov's renewed pressure with a reiteration of the republic's desire for compromise. The reply expressed regret at the Soviet threat to cut supplies of oil and gas, called for preliminary talks before May 1 and announced the dispatch of a delegation to Moscow "in the near future".

The parliament also voted to pass no new political legislation before May 1 if the Soviet Union agreed to preliminary talks. This constitutes a new offer from Vilnius, but represents a retreat from the original draft, which had offered to suspend the implementation of all legislation already passed as a result of the declaration of independence. Yesterday's resolution restated the parliament's intention to work towards the achievement of real independence through dialogue.

The only drama disturbing the tense calm in Vilnius yesterday was the hijack of a Soviet passenger aircraft to the Lithuanian capital by a man claiming, wrongly, to have a bomb in his luggage and demanding to talk to the Lithuanian government. Mr Igor Kalugin, aged 47, was arrested in Vilnius.

On her mission to Norway

Mrs Prunskiene is searching not only for oil supplies but also formal contacts between the two governments. However, the two leading Norwegian oil companies this week declared their unwillingness to be drawn into a political dispute with Moscow.

Adding to present tensions is the fact that Lithuania's nuclear power station at Ignalina is now shut down, probably until the end of May.

The only Russian deputy from the Soviet Communist Party in the Lithuanian parliament, Mr Sergei Birozhikov, said that "Russians here realize that economic steps taken by Moscow may also harm them, but they want Mr Gorbachov to act to reintroduce Soviet law here, and they are ready to suffer so that this should be done". He said that Russians here will go on obeying the laws of the Soviet Union.

WASHINGTON: Mr James Baker, US Secretary of State, yesterday signalled that patience with Moscow's conduct in Lithuania was running out (Martin Fletcher writes). "It is time to engage in a dialogue and not merely talk about having a dialogue," he told a congressional committee.

Mr Baker, speaking of "appropriate" US responses, noted that some bilateral commercial contacts were "more directly in their (Moscow's) interest than in ours. Those contacts are being put at risk by Soviet actions in Lithuania."

Estonia currency, page 8

US hostage 'to be free by tomorrow'

From Juan Carlos Ganscio, west Beirut

MUSLIM extremists who have held three American hostages for more than three years in Lebanon last night unexpectedly announced, without naming him, that they will release one of them by tomorrow at the request of Iran and Syria.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine at the same time asked Washington to send Mr John Kelly, a former US Ambassador to Lebanon and now Assistant Secretary of State for Near-

"to co-ordinate some final steps to guarantee success within 48 hours".

The Jihad's announcement came in a statement delivered to the offices of the independent *an-Nahar* newspaper here. It was accompanied by a photograph of Mr Jesse Turner, an American teacher working for Beirut University College who was abducted with Mr Allan Stein and Mr Robert Polhill on January 24, 1987.

Schoolchildren die, page 10

Fears of 'stagflation'

Rising labour costs coupled with a fall in manufacturing output are fuelling fears of stagflation — sharply rising inflation and stagnant growth. Figures show factory production in February just 0.6 per cent up on a year earlier.

A slowdown in the improvement of manufacturing workers' productivity means that the cost in wages per unit of output is rising. Page 25

Jail defiance

The seven remaining rioters at Strangeways prison continued their mocking contempt of the authorities for the 18th day. They hurled abuse and masonry and when hoses were aimed at one man he stripped and washed with a bar of soap. The authorities are holding to their policy of negotiation and pressure. Page 3

Show goes on

The Royal Opera House has budgeted for a £2 million deficit in the current year but will stage one of its most ambitious programmes in a dramatic gesture towards the Government and the Arts Council. Page 3

Moscow win

Two Soviet investigators won a signal victory against the establishment when the Supreme Soviet voted against removing their immunity from prosecution and recommended an inquiry into the judicial system. Page 8

Rich pickings

Prize-money for the Wimbledon tennis championships this year will be £3,874,450, an increase of 23 per cent on 1989. The men's and women's singles champions will collect £250,000 and £207,000 respectively. Page 46

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McAvoy jeered over rejection of strike

By David Tytler and Douglas Brown

LEFT-WING moves to force Britain's "largest" teachers' union to mount a campaign of mass non-payment of the poll tax were rejected by the leadership yesterday.

However, the new general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Mr Doug McAvoy, was jeered by about half the delegates to its annual conference in Bournemouth.

Hard-left members gave him a slow handclap as he vowed to maintain opposition to an illegal strike, and to use strike action only as a last resort. He was frequently interrupted by delegates shouting

that he never listened to them. Moderates countered with a standing ovation.

Mr McAvoy said the fight for better salaries and protection of jobs would not be won by a national strike at present.

Britain's second-largest teaching union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Association of Women Teachers, decided in conference at Scarborough to call a strike in the autumn unless the Government restored pay negotiating rights.

NUT conference, page 2

Strike call, page 2

All-clear for anthrax isle after 48 years

By Kerry Gill

THE island of Gruinard, which was contaminated with anthrax as an experiment in biological warfare during the Second World War, is to be returned to its owners next month, having been declared safe after years of decontamination and testing.

Gruinard, half a mile off the north-west Scottish coast, near the mouth of Little Loch Broom, has been strictly off-limits since it was requisitioned by the Ministry of Supply in 1942 for the top-secret experiments.

Next week, its flourishing community of cormorants and jet black rabbits will be joined by Mr Michael Neubert, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, and journalists when the last "MoD Property" sign is pulled down. For more than 40 years, local people gave Gruinard a wide berth.



Only scientists, well protected against potentially deadly spores, visited the innocent-looking island.

However, after an extensive survey, an independent advisory group of six scientists concluded that decontamination was feasible, and, by 1986, Gruinard was considered to have been completely cleared.

However, a farmer was invited to graze sheep on the island first to demonstrate that it was fit to be returned to agricultural use. Every day, Mr Steve Lynn chugged across the choppy bay to Gruinard, where he spent two hours making sure that the 40 sheep were thriving.

The experiment was completed without the loss of a single sheep. Mr Lynn even dipped the flock in an old concrete dip that had not been used since 1914. Burns and an old well provided abundant fresh water. Mr Lynn told *The Times* that he was never afraid of becoming contaminated. His only fear was in crossing the bay — he cannot swim.

Gruinard has now been sold back to

the trustees of the original owner, a Mrs Maitland, wife of an Edinburgh advocate. She was given £500 for the freehold in 1947 and the Ministry of Defence has accepted just £500 for Gruinard's return.

The trustees will formally take over the island on May 1 after Mr Neubert's little ceremony beside the mainland jetty. He will then take journalists on a tour of Gruinard, followed by a description of the decontamination process.

Seven families lived on the island at the turn of the century, but it soon became depopulated, making it ideal for the wartime experiment. Since then, however, Gruinard has been home to many sea birds, including a colony of cormorants. Thousands of rabbits, all black, have also thrived among the luxuriant heather.

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Teaching unions in conference: one barracks leader; another backs strikes

NUT split as leader rejects call for strike

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE deep divisions in Britain's largest teachers' union were clearly revealed last night when its new general secretary was jeered by about half its delegates at its annual conference and given a standing ovation by the rest.

Hard left members of the National Union of Teachers gave Mr Doug McAvoy the slow handclap as he told the conference in Bournemouth that he would stand by his pledge to use strike action as a last resort and would never support an illegal strike.

He was frequently interrupted by delegates who shouted that he never listened to them.

He was barracked and jeered when he said: "I reject the accusation made by some delegates that I will not fight for this union. That is nonsense. I will fight for better salaries and the protection of jobs."

"We will not win that fight by involving members in a national strike at the present time. I believe the vast majority would reject such a strike."

Shouts of "now" greeted his claim that it was essential to choose the right time to strike. He said the timing should be chosen by the union and not "dictated by the Government or any grouping that is out of touch with all of our members."

He said a strike would only succeed if it was backed by a majority of members.

Directly addressing the hard left members of the union, Mr McAvoy said: "I believe that every delegate who voted for strikes to combat the Government's failure should go back to their schools and ask the members, not just the members who turn up at inordinate meetings."

He also defended his right publicly to express his own views: "I am proud to be the first general secretary to be elected and I am proud to have been elected by an overwhelming number of members who voted."

"I said then that I believed the union would succeed in partnership with parents and that that partnership could not be built if schools are being disrupted."

"I said I would oppose any attempt to take this union outside the law. I stand by that. I believe I owe it to the members who elected me to press ahead with those policies."

He had earlier referred to Mr Kenneth Baker, the former Secretary of State for Education and Science, as a "hit-and-run minister."

He told the conference: "If we were to take illegal strike action we would find these

kind of people I referred to earlier, injured as a result of an accident caused by this hit-and-run minister and would find itself the best tonic that we should certainly not give to this Conservative government."

Mr McAvoy said the union had been successful in persuading the Government to make many changes to its education reforms, particularly over compulsory testing at seven and 11.

Referring to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's intervention at the beginning of the week when she said that she believed the National Curriculum was too rigid, he said: "The Prime Minister herself has recognized that there are flaws in changes pushed through Parliament by Kenneth Baker — the hit-and-run minister who has left Margaret Thatcher and the Conservative Party injured and bleeding from his poll tax and his education legislation."

Mr McAvoy said it was now generally accepted that there was a serious shortage of teachers. "Parents are tired of their children being sent home from school because no teacher is available; tired of seeing their children educated in dilapidated and dangerous buildings; tired of not being enough books to go around, of having to constantly contribute to school funds to provide essentials."

"They are tired of seeing their children's future blighted by underfunding, by under-resourcing and teachers stretched to the limit not by teaching their children only but in addition by the amount of paperwork this Government has rained down on them."

At the end of his speech, the left-wing delegates sat silently as the more moderate representatives gave him a long standing ovation.

Local education authorities who have been poll-capped by the Government last night announced a legal challenge to what they say is a threat to teachers' jobs.

Nineteen members of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, meeting in London, decided to seek a judicial review of the action by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

They say his reduction of £110 million in their income is equivalent to the loss of 7,000 teachers' jobs.

Mr Stephen Byers, of the association's education committee, speaking on the BBC's Six O'Clock News, said: "If the capping goes ahead as presently proposed it will really damage the education our children are receiving."



Paper protest: teacher delegates reading newspapers during Mr Doug McAvoy's address to the NUT conference in Bournemouth yesterday

Teachers back call for autumn strikes

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

MEMBERS of Britain's second largest teachers' union will be called out on strike in the autumn unless the Government restores teachers' pay negotiating rights, its annual conference decided yesterday.

Although decisions about the timing and form of industrial action was left to the executive of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, union leaders said that a campaign of one-day strikes was the most likely outcome.

Delegates representing 118,000 teachers gave unanimous approval to a motion expressing determination to pursue a campaign to improve pay and conditions.

The conference in Scarborough also endorsed a scheme to encourage teachers to refuse to undertake National Curriculum assessment and administration work, in protest at what delegates said was an excessive workload.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary designate, denied that the plan amounted to industrial action and said his members would be advised to stay within the terms of their contracts.

Under conditions of employment imposed on the profession by the Government in 1987, teachers are required to work a minimum of 1,265 hours a year — roughly equivalent to a 32.5 hour working week.

In addition they can be required to work for any further period which is deemed "reasonable". A recent survey by the union found that teachers were putting in average of 51

hours a week during term time and led to calls for action to ease the workload.

Mr de Gruchy said: "We are not talking about taking industrial action. Members will get together in schools and make their own decisions about what is reasonable."

"We will advise them to concentrate on preparation and teaching in the classroom."

Assessment and the mountain of paperwork will be relegated to the back of the queue.

"When they have completed what is reasonable they will simply say to the head that they have fulfilled their obligations," he said. The union was prepared to stage local strike action if its members had they pay docked for refusing to do work they considered unreasonable.

But he added: "We will not be going to the courts. British judges are hopelessly biased against working people and trade unions."

Opening the debate on the pay motion, Mrs Sue Rogers, vice-president, said the present two-stage pay award to teachers was worth only 7.3 per cent at a time when inflation was rising.

For three years teachers had endured imposed rises below the rate of inflation and the time had come to take a stand.

"Teachers are literally cracking under the strain. The workload is intolerable," she said.

"It is outrageous that the Government is giving Satchi and Satchi £2.2 million to persuade young people to come into teaching, yet they do not seem prepared to give

us any money to persuade existing teachers to stay in education."

An illustration of the financial plight facing some teachers was given by Miss Rachel Harris, a teacher from West Suffolk.

She told the conference that she earned more per hour and enjoyed better conditions as a barmaid than she did as a teacher.

As a graduate at the age of 29 she earned only £11,043 a year, £680 a month.

After paying her poll tax, mortgage repayments of £380 a month and £137 a month in repayments on the car she used to get to work she had little more than £120 left.

Her night job as a barmaid brought her £25 a session, free food and a regular bonus.

"I need both jobs to pay my mortgage on a modest two bedroomed flat which I bought with a colleague in a far from fashionable part of Suffolk and to enable me to run a second-hand car," she said.



Mr de Gruchy: Members should keep to contracts

Rights of child 'not protected'

AFTER a decade of "officially approved uncaring self-interest" Britain's record in protecting the rights of children is as poor as that of some Third World countries, a teachers' union leader said yesterday (Douglas Broom writes).

Mr Graham Terrell, former president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, told the annual conference in Scarborough that the Government should be ashamed of its failure to protect children.

"In London and our major cities young children are working long hours in a way that can only damage their education," he said.

"They turn up at school in the morning too tired to learn and the fact that the Government does nothing about it amounts to conniving with the exploitation of these children."

"Anyone who travels through our great railway stations cannot fail to see the army of child beggars who infest them. It is shocking that the Government seems content to ignore them."

Mr Terrell, deputy headmaster of Rutish School, a comprehensive in Merton, south London, criticized the Government's refusal to ratify the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ministers had expressed "reservations" about the convention because it conflicted with immigration legislation, he said.

Article nine of the convention gave children the right to live with their parents, a right not allowed to the children of

some non-British mothers living in Britain. Article 37 sought to guarantee children protection from arbitrary arrest but under the current immigration law children could be arrested and held without trial.

"Our immigration laws permit children to be arbitrarily detained without trial or bail. Children are frequently held in this way at Harmondsworth Detention Centre near Heathrow Airport," Mr Terrell said.

Mr Gordon Houseley, a member of the union's national executive, said changes to the school curriculum designed to make teaching relevant to the world of work also amounted to an attack on the rights of children.

They were entitled to a broad-based education which was not dictated by the needs of industry but which would enable them to play a full role as adult citizens.

Mr Seamus Seanson, a London teacher, said teacher shortages in the capital — which meant that hundreds of children were denied education — constituted an assault on their rights.

Mr Peter Tippetts, a teacher at a Southampton comprehensive, said the system of basing school budgets on pupil numbers would increase the trend to regard them as units rather than individuals.

"Children, who should be our nation's most precious resources, have been reduced to the status of bankable assets on the hoof like so many cattle," he said. "Schools have been thrust into a whirlpool of market forces competing for the satchelful of fivers that each child will bring with them under formula funding."

Leaders reject left's tax protest

By David Tytler

LEFT-WING moves to force Britain's largest teachers' union to mount a campaign of mass non-payment of the poll tax were rejected by the leadership yesterday.

Mrs Barbara Lloyd, president of the National Union of Teachers, told its annual conference in Bournemouth that parts of the proposed motion encouraged illegal activity while others "were outside the aims and objectives of the union as they stand."

Mr Richard Rieser, a teacher from Hackney, east London, who proposed the motion, said it was the one Mr Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, had earlier claimed had been shaped by the Militant Tendency.

Mrs Lloyd ruled most of the motion out of order preventing calls for Labour authorities not to implement or collect the tax and to undertake not to prosecute anybody who refused to pay the tax.

Left-wingers also failed in their attempt to mount a union campaign against the tax and to join anti-poll tax unions.

Mr Rieser said: "It is true that it was proposed by two or three supporters of Militant out of the 50 or 60 other members who attend our meetings but it was approved by everybody." Non-compliance was the only way to fight the tax.

He said teachers would have to make a moral decision on whether to let poll tax officers have access to school records containing names and addresses.

A revised motion condemning the tax and its adverse effect on the school budgets was passed overwhelmingly.

Later Mrs Lloyd also ruled out of order a demand from the Kingston upon Thames association that British troops should be pulled out of Northern Ireland.

A watered down version of the motion committing the union for the first time to support TUC initiatives on Ulster was passed overwhelmingly.

The motion said: "Generations of school children are being denied the opportunity to grow up and be educated in a peaceful and positive environment."

The NUT, which does not represent teachers in the province, is also committed to "explore ways which the union can assist teachers and children to overcome some of their day-to-day difficulties."

In spite of Mrs Lloyd's ruling, left-wing teachers repeatedly demanded that British troops be removed from Northern Ireland.

The union also reaffirmed its opposition to the Government's scheme for licensed teachers and to take all necessary steps to resist their employment.

Interior Decoration Number

COUNTRY LIFE



- From the Hermitage, the greatest cabinetmaker ever?
 - How Georgian rooms were really painted
 - John Cornforth on the interiors of Robert Adam's pupil
 - Bloomsbury by the sea: restoring the art, recapturing the laughter
 - Robots and cows: is this the way to more natural milk?
- Plus the usual informed coverage of gardens, wildlife, sport, architecture, collecting, the countryside, farming, fashion, property and the arts.

COUNTRY LIFE
EVERY THURSDAY

NHS staff may strike over pay

Leaders of 130,000 administration and clerical staff employed in the National Health Service yesterday rejected a 7.7 per cent pay offer and threatened strike action.

The national committee of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) said it would propose a programme of strikes at a delegate meeting on May 18.

The union wants an increase of £18 a week or 12 per cent, whichever is greater. The NHS management tabled its "final" offer of 7.7 per cent at talks last Wednesday.

TV film demand

Anglia Television and the BBC were ordered by a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court to hand over footage of a poll tax demonstration at Colchester, Essex, in which 17 people were arrested when trouble flared outside the town hall.

Prince's gift

The Prince of Wales has given £30,000 to help to repair storm damage at his local parish church, St Mary the Virgin at Tetbury in Gloucestershire, where he and his family are regular worshippers.

CORRECTIONS

Yesterday's report about salmonella poisoning at weddings should have made clear that the food at last year's reception at the Savoy was prepared not by the hotel, but by outside caterers who are being sued for damages by the bridal couple concerned.

The portrait of Lord Charteris of Amisfield, shown yesterday, is by Michael Noakes, not Richard Nokes as printed.

Salaries 'well above inflation'

By David Young

MANAGEMENT salaries are rising at well above the rate of inflation, with further double-figure rises likely to be conceded by many companies, particularly in the South-east, according to a survey.

The result, says the Reward Group, which did the study, could be company failures and significant shedding of labour.

The survey involved 1,000 companies, employing more than a million people, and analysed the salaries of 26,123 working in senior management and in supervisory roles. Reward says that it is the most representative management pay survey yet published.

It found that last month, annual basic pay rises for managers averaged 11.8 per cent, compared with 11.1 per cent in September last year, 8.5 per cent in March last year and 6.4 per cent in September 1988.

Companies are now predicting that overall management pay will rise by 9.1 per cent over the next year, but Reward says that experience suggests that this figure is more an expression of hope.

The survey found that employers, especially in the South-east and in the Thames Valley, expect to give rises of between 8 per cent and 10 per cent.

Reward warns that continued pressure on salaries could lead to problems for many companies. The survey says: "Such a level of pay increases raises some very difficult questions. There is no doubt

that employees are becoming intensely aware of their market value and that the lower levels of unemployment are producing lower levels of loyalty."

"The obvious and immediate solution for the majority of employers is to increase pay levels to beat off the competition."

Competition for staff would "raise salary levels and, in the low-loyalty, high-turnover areas, encourage employees to go on a merry-go-round."

Average Management Pay

	Total Earnings	% Increase
Chief Executive-General Manager	£20,946 to £27,638	10.5
Accounts-Financial Controller	£20,797 to £29,000	8.5
Company Secretary	£18,896 to £24,188	10.3
Construction-Contract Manager	£15,418 to £25,020	16.5
Construction-assistant surveyor	£5,900 to £15,000	35.5
Computing Manager	£18,010 to £26,926	9.2
Engineering-Chief Engineer	£17,341 to £24,456	11.1
Marketing Manager	£20,732 to £26,680	8.3
Chief Personnel Manager	£18,536 to £25,913	6.3
Works Manager	£17,250 to £20,044	10.0
Chief Scientist-Technologist	£18,025 to £22,800	8.2
Sales Manager	£19,284 to £27,423	8.6
Legal Adviser	£23,653 to £28,180	16.5
Graduate Trainee	£8,209 to £13,000	11.2

Irish courts top agenda for meeting

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE vexed issue of extradition will dominate a meeting today of the Anglo Irish ministerial conference as British ministers seek clarification of recent court decisions in Dublin not to send terrorist suspects to Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher is also expected to express British dismay at the judgments when she meets Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street tomorrow.

Mr Peter Brooke, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, requested a conference meeting to concentrate on extradition after he had talks with Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs, earlier this month.

He said yesterday: "The consequence of the two recent judgments could have given some people the impression that there was a safe haven for terrorists in the Republic."

"That is a bad perception for anybody to have and a question both governments will have to address."

Mr Brooke added: "The Irish government has been the

agents, on our behalf, in bringing these extradition cases. It is the courts who have in fact ruled on the basis of the laws and it is therefore obvious it is the laws we will be discussing."

During the discussions in London today government Ministers will express disappointment at Irish Supreme Court decisions which freed Mr Owen Carron, the former Republican MP, and convicted terrorists Dermot Finucane and James Pius Clarke.

Earlier this month the Irish

Supreme Court upheld Mr Carron's appeal against an order for his return to RUC custody on a firearms charge ruling that the alleged firearms offence was connected with political offences.

The decision led to further strain in Anglo-Irish relations and brought calls from Unionist politicians for the Anglo-Irish agreement to be scrapped.

Mr Haughey's talks with the Prime Minister are the latest in a round he is holding with European Community leaders.

Isaacs announces £2m deficit and ten new operas

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Opera House has taken the unprecedented step of budgeting for a £2 million deficit in the current year while still staging one of the musically most ambitious opera programmes to date in a dramatic challenge to the Government and the Arts Council.

The country's pre-eminent classical venue is not only carrying over a deficit of £3.3 million from the last financial year, but is also preparing to let it build to nearly £5.5 million to preserve its high musical standards.

Announcing a programme for 1990-91 which includes 10 opera productions new to Covent Garden, Mr Jeremy Isaacs, general director, said yesterday that unless there was some indication of a solution to the funding crisis by the autumn "I do not know what will happen".

He said: "We cannot slash

to ribbons a programme the public find worth supporting. We cannot go on indefinitely budgeting for a deficit. We have to know where we are by the autumn of this year, I do not think we can go on much longer than that not knowing.

"Without the money we would have to have the most drastic of drastic rethinks, and that would mean Armageddon." Traditionally, the autumn Treasury statement gives a firm indication about funding for the following financial year.

"There will be a serious cash crisis by the end of the year unless something happens that is not happening now."

That could mean either an emergency contingency grant from the Government, or rescue from private sponsors in the City. For the first time the Arts Council has built in its own contingency fund of £2.5 million this year, but

nearly all of that has already been spent on rescuing the English National Ballet.

Despite an 11 per cent increase in the Royal Opera House's Arts Council grant for this year to £15.3 million, unless there is the promise of more than 20 per cent, an increase of about £4 million, the Royal Opera House will be unable to balance its books by the end of the three-year funding period in 1992.

Mr Isaacs put the magnitude of the deficit down to an income shortfall due to an "over-ambitious" expectation of £2 million from private subscription which had been affected by the rise in interest rates, and an overspend of £1 million on overheads which increased with inflation-linked wage rises, all added to accumulated shortfalls in government funding.

However, he said that he would not preside over any further cuts in productions or musical standards to tackle the deficit. Nor would he follow the example of the Royal Shakespeare Company by closing.

Public approval of the opera programme was attested to by the fact that last year 90 per cent box office sales were recorded, and £6 million in sponsorship and corporate support was raised. That meant the past ratio of 60 per cent government grant to 40 per cent earned income had been reversed: a 50-50 ratio was a reasonable expectation.

Productions had been cut so that they represented only 5 per cent of overall costs, and more cuts could not be made, Mr Isaacs said. Staff cuts, too, proved to be impossible while still maintaining "a proper and adequate service".

In the next few weeks the opera house is expected to announce an increase in ticket prices of at least 10 per cent, which is likely to bring the first standard £100 seat to Covent Garden. The present spread of prices is £1 to £90.

Peat Marwick McLintock, the management consultants, have been commissioned to make a detailed comparison with other international houses and their funding, earning power and performance ratio.

Their report is expected to reinforce the fact that the Royal Opera House contributes more to its funding than any house except the Metropolitan in New York which operates under a different revenue system, has the smallest grant than any but the Metropolitan and raises more sponsorship than any but the Metropolitan.

The 1990-91 season is to go ahead at the Royal Opera House with the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's opera *Corwin*, the farewell performance by Dame Joan Sutherland, who is to sing the John Mortimer translation of *Die Fledermaus*, and performances by Jose Carreras, Plácido Domingo, and Dame Kiri te Kanawa.

Guest conductors will include Sir Colin Davis, and opera will number Massenet's *Don Quichotte*, Verdi's *Attila*, Beethoven's *Fidelio* and a revival of the popular Zeffirelli production of Puccini's *Tosca*. The Götz Friedrich production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* is to continue with *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*, there is to be a new production of *Carmen* directed by Spain's Nuria Espert and with a Spanish designer, and two Greek operas, *Iphigenie* and *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

In succession to Miss Gahon. The school has been noted for its strength in the arts. Old girls include Diana de Vere Cole, the book illustrator and television writer, and Iona Brown, the violinist.

Since 1987 the number of pupils - at £2,425 a term for boarding and tuition - has dropped from 140 to 96.

Cranborne Chase experiment briefly with scholarships for boys in the sixth form in the 1970s, but later reverted to being a single sex school. It was never able to accommodate more than 145 pupils, which proved an expensive handicap with a costly building and grounds to maintain.

Traditionally a little less expensive than Roedean, the best known girls' public school, Cranborne Chase had recently become £80 a term dearer.

Cash crisis for Broadlands

By Alan Hamilton

BROADLANDS, the Hampshire home of the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma which has served as honeymoon retreat to the last two generations of royalty, is in serious financial trouble, according to its current occupant.

Lord Romsey, grandson and heir to the last Viceroy of India and former honorary grandfather to the Prince of Wales, and who was killed by an Irish terrorist bomb in 1979, admitted yesterday he had spent much of his inheritance trying to keep the house and grounds open. He now faced a bill of £14 million for essential repairs and future upkeep of the house that was once the home of Queen Victoria's prime minister, Lord Palmerston.

"If we cannot find the funds from some sort of development we shall have to consider closing the house," Lord Romsey said yesterday. "I cannot go on bearing the financial burden. I know people think I am wealthy, but I simply have a lot of assets that look very nice, and a large overdraft."

He is still smarting over the decision last year by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to refuse planning permission for a superstore and garden centre set among Broadlands' 5,000 acres. The inspector at the initial planning inquiry recommended that the plan go ahead, after hearing Lord Romsey's argument that it would provide at least £8 million for urgent house repairs.

Mr Patten rejected it, saying that the needs of the historic house did not justify the introduction of "unacceptable shopping developments in the

open countryside". Broadlands receives about 100,000 visitors a year. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spent the first night of their honeymoon there in 1947, as did the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1981.

Lord Romsey said yesterday that he was still in negotiation with the local authority to find a development for his estate which would satisfy planners.

Last year Lord Romsey, who is aged 42, announced that the company administering the public side of the Broadlands estate had gone into voluntary liquidation; since then, he has run the estate on a personal basis.

Staff at Churchill's birthplace saved the stately home and its valuable contents from serious damage when fire broke out in the roof.

Firemen praised staff yesterday who tried to put out the flames at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and then protected its vast collection of books in the library below the seat of the blaze.

The palace administrator, Mr Paul Duffie, saw flames in the roof of a tower where repair work had been carried out earlier in the day.

Mr Duffie said: "The fire brigade did not use one more drop of water than was necessary so damage was kept to a minimum." The blaze was brought under control within an hour. No one was injured and there was no serious structural damage.

An investigation into the cause was taking place and a conservation expert was called in to examine the collection of 10,000 books. The Duke of Marlborough was not in residence at the time.

Roedean's rival to close in summer

By Robin Young

CRANBORNE Chase, one of the most famous public schools for girls, is to close at the end of this summer term.

High interest rates and the cost of maintaining the 18th century building at Wardour Castle, near Tisbury, Wiltshire, in which it was housed, are blamed for the decision, which the governors announced yesterday.

Cranborne Chase was founded as a sister school to Bryanston in 1946 by its first headmistress, Miss C B Gatton, who held office for 23 years. In 1961 it had to be saved by an appeal to parents when unexpectedly heavy costs were incurred moving to Wardour Castle site at Wimbome, Dorset.

In 1969 the school set a precedent when Mr Michael Neal, formerly a housemaster at Eton, was appointed head

in succession to Miss Gahon. The school has been noted for its strength in the arts. Old girls include Diana de Vere Cole, the book illustrator and television writer, and Iona Brown, the violinist.

Since 1987 the number of pupils - at £2,425 a term for boarding and tuition - has dropped from 140 to 96.

Cranborne Chase experiment briefly with scholarships for boys in the sixth form in the 1970s, but later reverted to being a single sex school. It was never able to accommodate more than 145 pupils, which proved an expensive handicap with a costly building and grounds to maintain.

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Nina Wigfall, aged 11, models a vestment made at London's National Portrait Gallery at a workshop linked to an exhibition celebrating Cardinal Newman's life

Mother fights ruling in Egypt on child custody

By Tom Giles

A BRITISH mother was yesterday planning to appeal after an Egyptian judge refused to recognize a British court ruling giving her custody of her three children, abducted to Egypt by their father six months ago.

Mrs Pamela Green, aged 35, from Mitcham in Surrey, told that the ruling effectively allows her Egyptian former husband, Mr Abdul Salem Ahmed, to keep their nine-year-old daughter and two sons aged seven and five at his house in Cairo.

Staff at the British Embassy in the capital are comforting Mrs Green who has already spent £5,000 on legal expenses

and must now raise more funds to finance her appeal.

The British vice-consul, Mrs Helen Holmes, said that the judge had refused to recognize papers relating to the couple's divorce, her custody of the children or an order making them wards of court in the UK.

She added: "The next step is to appeal. Pamela's lawyer is trying everything possible to have the appeal heard within the next seven days."

"She was devastated by the news on Tuesday, but is very strong and is trying to pick herself up and get ready to make the appeal. It came as a great shock because her lawyer

and everybody contacted with the case has been very confident that the outcome would be in her favour."

However, Mrs Holmes said such a result would have been "very surprising". "There's no obligation on behalf of the Egyptian courts to recognize a British court decision."

The National Council for Abducted Children, known as Reunite, said yesterday it would ask Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, to look into the case.

The Foreign Office said Mr Sainsbury had a private meeting with an all-party group of MPs yesterday to discuss the Government's position in helping parents in child-abduction cases. It is not known whether Mrs Green's case was raised.

Reunite said: "Mrs Green has had to fight her own case through the Egyptian courts despite having custody in Britain."

"Over 500 children are abducted from Britain every year. Few return and some never see their mother or father again. Once abducted, children and their parents receive no financial assistance from the Government, nor do they have recourse through the British courts to their children."

Mrs Green, who gave up a fashion design course in Croydon, south-west London, to fight the case, has made five visits to Cairo.

In the last six months she has managed to see her children just three times, the last when she tracked them down to a school in Cairo.

Her husband has remarried, to a 20-year-old Egyptian girl, and has taken the children to live with his parents in a two-room flat in the Sharabiya area of the city.

Although Mrs Green's lawyer is trying to act quickly she has been told that an appeal may well not be possible before the end of June when the Egyptian courts go into recess. If the appeal attempt fails, it is likely no action will be taken before October, more than a year after her children were taken.

Mrs Green has said she will have to apply for a residence permit, showing she has income of £120 a month, if she is to have a chance of seeing her children again.

Slimmer admits duping public

MICHELE Deakin, the 1988 Young Slimmer of the Year, confessed yesterday to duping the public by claiming that she had shed 12 stone by using a "miracle" drug.

Deakin, aged 21, changed her plea to guilty on the second day of her trial at Liverpool Crown Court on a charge of conspiring with Peter Foster, described in court as a confidence man, to sell a slimming aid advertised with a false trade description. She was given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and fined £250.

Deakin, who had shed 12 stone by her own efforts, was stripped of her title by *Slimmer Magazine* after she had appeared on national television to endorse the slimming product, a powder made from the thickening agent guar gum, as a "miracle" product. The magazine said the award was only given to those who lost weight naturally.

Customers who sent in cheques to Deakin's home to buy the so-called "Deakin Diet" had received nothing.

Mr Antonis Georges, for the defence, told the court that Deakin had put on considerable weight since she appeared on the BBC's *Daytime Live* programme, which caused by the anxiety of these proceedings hanging over her head, which have caused considerable ructions within her family". Deakin

had believed the granules were safe and effective, but he added: "She lied in the sense that she said she had taken them."

"She was not a dishonest person. Everything was thrown away when Peter Foster was introduced to her."

At the age of 19 Deakin had had no social life, and Peter Foster and his Rolls-Royce had swept her off her feet. "She should have withstood the temptation... but it is understandable that she should succumb."

Mr Georges added: "Many people far more sophisticated have succumbed to Foster's temptations. When he sees a product... he latches on to it like a leech."

Earlier, Mr Georges referred to the promotion of another of Foster's fake slimming aids, Bai Lin tea, by the cricketer Ian Botham and the model Samantha Fox. The judge emphasized that there was no evidence of any improper conduct by the celebrities mentioned.

Although vast amounts of money had been involved in the promotion of the guar gum product, most of it had gone into Foster's Isle of Man bank account. Foster is on the run, believed to be hiding in the Cayman Islands.

Deakin, who had been training as a croupier at a Liverpool casino, has had her licence suspended.

Gender check in embryos halts family diseases

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

BRITISH scientists have discovered how to determine the sex of a human embryo within three days of fertilization and are using the knowledge to prevent gender-linked inherited diseases.

Three women are expecting babies certain to be free of specific hereditary conditions, as a result of pioneering research by specialists at the Hammersmith Hospital in west London. The pregnancies are understood to be the first in the world to result from the application of the technique in this context.

The advance could ultimately be of great benefit to families afflicted by more than 200 diseases, including haemophilia and Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which affect only male children, the researchers said yesterday.

More immediately, it could influence MPs who, during next week's debate on the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, will be given a free vote on whether to ban embryo research.

Professor Robert Winston, who led the Hammersmith work, said that the healthy pregnancies achieved in the three women would have been impossible without such research, and said further advances would be vetoed if a ban was legally enforced.

Details of the latest research are published in today's issue of *Nature*. Using *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) techniques, Professor Winston and Dr Alan Handyside, an embryologist, identified the sex of embryos of five women patients with a family history of disorders, and placed in their wombs only unaffected female embryos, discarding the males which might have been affected.

Eggs from the women had been collected and inseminated with their husbands' sperm. The fertilized eggs were cultured for a further two days during which the eggs developed into eight-cell embryos, measuring a tenth of a millimetre across.

A single cell was then removed from each, and a fragment of DNA found only on the male Y chromosome was amplified a millionfold in a rapid process called polymerase chain reaction. That enabled the sex of the embryos to be identified within a few hours. Only the female embryos were placed in the mothers.

Three of the five women are now pregnant, and two of the three, Mrs Debbie Edwards, aged 29, and Mrs Christine Munday, aged 33, are expecting twins in August. The babies have been confirmed as normal females by conventional prenatal diagnosis and ultrasound scanning.

Mrs Munday, of Frimley, Surrey, has a son aged 13 who is severely handicapped mentally and physically by a rare chromosomal disorder.

She said: "We love our boy but it is a devastating condition and one day we may not be able to look after him. It is a wonderful relief to start a new pregnancy knowing that the new babies are not going to be affected in the same way."

Mrs Edwards, of Hayes, west London, was at risk of having children affected by a form of muscular dystrophy

which causes mental impairment, blindness and incapacity leading to death.

Professor Winston said: "We are hopeful that we can use the same approach for the specific diagnosis of other, relatively frequently inherited diseases."

He said that at present, prenatal diagnosis of the conditions was available at early stages of pregnancy, but if the fetus was found to be affected, the parents faced the difficult choice of whether or not to terminate the pregnancy.

"Our work offers them an alternative type of diagnosis and the chance to start a normal pregnancy."

Science and technology, pages 31-34

Lonely life of gorillas may end

By Ruth Gledhill

THE sight of bored, lone male gorillas kept in solitary confinement in zoos could soon be a thing of the past.

As the population of male gorillas in captivity increases, all-male groups of gorillas will become the only alternative to euthanasia, according to this week's issue of *The Dodo*, the journal of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust.

Sexually mature male gorillas, or silverbacks, frequently live alone for years in the wild. Dr Sandy Harcourt, of the Department of Zoology at Cambridge University, reports in *The Dodo* that zoos face a huge problem in housing surplus males. Because of the assumption that adult males cannot be kept together, zoos often keep them in solitary confinement for years.

However, the sight of bored, lonely males is becoming unacceptable to the public and zoo administrations alike; the apes' intelligence only exacerbates their distress.

While males who attempt to join breeding groups in the wild come under savage attack, they often join bachelor groups with no problems, bar the odd chest-beating display.

However, *The Dodo* reports that no zoo in the world is known to have a bachelor group of male gorillas. But Mr Richard Johnston-Scott, anthropoids section head at Jersey, says the only alternative is euthanasia.

Howlett's Zoo Park, thought to have the world's largest gorilla population, with 19 males and 18 females, is building Britain's first all-male gorilla enclosure.

Mr Peter Halliday, head gorilla keeper, said: "Ideally, there should be one male to four females in an adult group. 'Male gorillas are real chauvinists. They naturally tend to dominate. But if there are four females, they can unite when the male steps out of line and see the male off.'"

Decision on £500m market scheme soon

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A decision on the controversial £500 million scheme to redevelop the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market in the East End of London could be taken next Friday.

The scheme, for 800,000 square feet of offices and 200,000 square feet of shops, has been criticized by the Spitalfields Trust which has called on the Spitalfields Development Group to rethink the project and urged Tower Hamlets to reject the present scheme. The Royal Fine Art Commission has made a similar call.

Committee members want the meeting to be followed immediately by a meeting of the policy and resources committee, so the matter is resolved before the elections. Labour is hoping to wrest

control from the Liberals. At present the two parties have an equal number of seats, with the Liberal mayor having the casting vote.

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Both sides play a waiting game as Strangeways stalemate goes on

THE mocking contempt delivered to the prison authorities from the roof of Strangeways, Manchester, continued for the 18th day yesterday (Ronald Faux writes).

The seven remaining rioters who still command the upper storeys of the wrecked building held to their refusal to surrender as the prison authorities held to a policy of patient negotiation and psychological pressure to end the siege.

Yesterday afternoon there was deadlock and no negotiations, patient or otherwise,

had taken place for 50 hours. Mr Brendan O'Friel, the prison governor, has been supported by his staff and by the Home Office in his policy of refusing to use force to retake the building.

He has not given any detailed reasons at press conferences as to why he decided on this course save that using force would risk lives unnecessarily. For operational reasons no more details could be given while the siege continued.

That is seen by staff as commonsense, asserting itself over pressure to take a hard

line against the rioters by storming the prison roof. The chance to do so was lost in the early stages of the riot when prisoners took control and barricaded themselves into a position that was impregnable to the number of prison officers immediately on hand.

The O'Friel approach is to let the trouble expire naturally and in the meantime he is biding his counsel. There is, after all, a murder inquiry under way.

The rioters are contained. There are no hostages, what damage to the building can be done, has been done. At-

tempts to set fire to the prison can be dealt with from a safe distance. The original numbers of rioters occupying the roof has been whittled down from more than 100 to a hardcore of seven.

The descriptions of the state of the Strangeways interior make it clear the accommodation wings are in a dangerous condition.

We are told that wrought iron staircases leading to the upper areas of the prison have been smashed. Stretches of gantry linking the cells are unsafe to walk on. Wreckage is heaped in piles in danger of

collapse. The building is dark and the geography complex.

Prison officers who attempted to approach the barricades were met with violence. One suffered a punctured lung. They were beaten back by inmates armed with scaffolding poles.

Against that background, Mr O'Friel has clearly decided to weather the humiliation of prisoners on the roof and to sit it out, even though only seven remain. They have no clean water or fresh food and fire-works and klaxons rob them of rest. Their numbers are being further reduced by food

poisoning. Mr Bob Litherland, Labour MP for Manchester Central, said yesterday he believed the authorities had taken the right approach.

Bringing in the Army would be wrong, men with guns were inappropriate and retaking the prison would be like storming the catacombs, he said.

The prisoners kept up their defiance yesterday, hurling abuse and masonry at prison staff and doing their best to show that Mr O'Friel's insistence that they are short of food, filthy and demoralized is foolish thinking. One man greeted the day with a loud

"Good morning, Manchester," when he first appeared on the roof.

Later, when fire hoses were aimed at him, he stripped naked and scrubbed himself with a bar of soap. A Home Office spokesman said such gestures would not deflect the authorities from their expressed intention of reaching a peaceful settlement.

The last prisoners to leave were three men taken to hospital on Monday with suspected food poisoning. They were brought out through an opening in the barricades of debris which

even a small number of rioters are thought to be able to defend against any attempt to storm the upper floors of the prison under rioters' control.

The prisoners are able to boil water, cook their remaining food and keep warm on open fires made from debris.

There is speculation that some rioters are using drugs taken from the prison pharmacy. Medical opinion suggests, however, that the drug supplies kept in the prison would mainly be depressants rather than drugs that would have an anti-depressant, exciting effect.

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Airline fights Paris ban on cut-price business flights

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BUSINESS travellers between London and Paris have been denied the chance of saving £100 on a return air ticket by the "obduracy" of the French government, it was claimed yesterday.

British Midland Airways is to begin services from Heathrow to Paris Charles de Gaulle on May 24. It had aimed at the 20 per cent of regular business air passengers, whose companies insist they travel economy class, by offering a full business class service at £100 less than the equivalent business-class fare available on either British Airways or Air France.

The French government, however, rejected that proposal, although it had received approval from Britain.

Mr Austin Reid, managing director of British Midland,

said: "Many companies, especially in France, insist on their staff buying economy tickets."

"We were certain our proposed business fare of £149 for anyone returning within three days — the most usual length of stay for most business trips — would have proved extremely popular. Unfortunately the French refused."

"It demonstrates that there are still different attitudes towards liberalization and competition within Europe."

The airline is still fighting the ban with the help of the Department of Transport but may have to wait for another two years when a new agreement enabling airlines to set the fares they wish — provided just one country agrees — becomes law throughout Europe. In the meantime Brit-

ish Midland is introducing a range of fares which roughly match the price of an economy seat on the two big carriers, British Airways and Air France.

The two now share almost equally the 2.5 million passengers a year who use the route, but with an all-business class service.

British Midland, using McDonnell Douglas DC9 jets with 110 seats, will offer champagne, free drinks, hot towels and a full meal service on seven flights a day.

"We are more than confident in taking on the national flag carrier," Mr Reid said. "In the 1980s we helped to change the face of air travel on UK domestic routes by campaigning successfully against considerable opposition to provide greater competition, choice and value for money."

"In Europe we have already proved on the Heathrow to Dublin and Heathrow to Amsterdam routes that we can take on national flag carriers and gain a very considerable market share. The launch of a Heathrow-Paris service on Europe's premier route is another very important step in our expansion strategy and we expect to make further announcements later this year."

British Midland has had remarkable success in its battle to compete with British Airways and now has a 30 per cent share of Scottish routes, 46 per cent of Belfast services, 25 per cent of Amsterdam flights and 19 per cent of Dublin routes. The airline is confident that it will persuade at least 15 per cent of passengers on the Paris route to make the switch.

Mr Reid, however, said that unless more take-off and landing slots were made available at Heathrow to enable his airline to compete directly with other carriers any further expansion might be impossible.

● The number of hourly take-offs and landings at Heathrow is to be increased from 72 to 74 to ease delays for passengers, the Civil Aviation Authority said last night.



The cult hero of the fifties and his "macho, craggy" replacement being given a public showing yesterday

Pilot Dan dares to be different

By John Young

IN THE far off days of April 1950 the first words spoken by Dan Dare were "Kingfisher's ready to go, Sir Hubert." Forty years on, the reincarnated space hero seems to be, if anything, slightly less loquacious.

"Ram-wave ... energize," are his introductory remarks in his new adventure, as he blasts what is described as a solderite mock-up of the Mekon through the roof of his spaceship.

His dumpy little batman, Digby, gives a squeal of what one assumes to be delight, and moments later the two of them plus the lovely Professor Jocelyn Peabody are on their way, like it or not, to another

war in space. But is Colonel Dare the man he was? Although he has undergone robotic plastic surgery to become "more macho and craggy" than before, the suspicion is that he has also become something of a wimp.

To set a good example to a new generation of young readers, he has eschewed smoking and abandoned his pipe.

He has, however, also discarded his officer's uniform in favour of a one-piece designer combat suit. Designer combat suit? Still worse, he has become a strict vegetarian.

Well, not exactly. His disembodied voice, relayed to the Science Museum in London yesterday, confessed that his

favourite food was still steak and kidney pie.

Some mistake, surely. Mr Jon Davidge, publishing director of Fleetway Publications, which this week launches its revamped *Eagle* magazine, appeared disconcerted. "Well, a sort of vegetarian," he admitted.

During the last 40 years Dan has had his ups and downs. During the 1950s he was every schoolboy's hero, forever guarding the planet against a succession of alien invaders.

Then for some reason things went wrong. In 1959 his creator, Frank Hampson, resigned. Ten years later *Eagle* itself disappeared, and Dan was not resurrected until

1982, and then only in an insipid black-and-white version and masquerading as his own great grandson.

"It was not the most glorious relaunch," Mr Davidge confessed yesterday.

The glory days when *Eagle* sold over a million copies a week had passed with the coming of television.

Now, with the help of a new adventure serial starting on BBC Radio Four tonight, the original, if modified, Dan will, it is hoped, return to rescue Planet Earth. From Saturday *Eagle* will appear in full colour, and negotiations are close to conclusion for a television series to begin in about 18 months' time.

Football inquest hears coroner's warning

By Peter Davenport

FORTY-THREE of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster had no trace of alcohol in their blood and only 15 of the dead were found to have levels above the legal driving limit, the resumed inquest into the deaths was told yesterday.

The figures, the first detailed breakdown given, were produced by Dr Alexander Forrest, a consultant chemical pathologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield who carried out tests on blood samples of all but one of the 95 victims.

Since the disaster on April 15 last year, during the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, there has been continuing debate about the effects of alcohol on the events.

The resumed Sheffield inquest will be limited in its scope because the Director of Public Prosecutions has yet to decide if there should be any criminal prosecutions arising out of the tragedy. The coroner, Dr Stefan Popper, told the jury of seven men and four women that they would hear evidence of why, when and where the 95 died but not how.

There would be no evidence from South Yorkshire police officers. Sheffield Wednesday club officials or stewards who were on duty at the ground.

Dr Popper said: "No criticism or attack on any individual or corporation will be allowed and I will do nothing that will be detrimental to the DPP's inquiry."

If there is no decision to prosecute the inquest will resume and conclude hearing evidence before the jury return verdicts. If charges are brought the inquest will remain adjourned until after any subsequent court proceedings before any decision is taken on whether it should conclude its deliberations.

The first of the deaths dealt with was that of Mr Colin Wafer, aged 19. According to medical evidence he died of traumatic asphyxia.

The inquest was adjourned until today.

Thief may have started ship fire

By Nicholas Watt

A FIRE that killed a passenger on board a B&I ferry in the Irish Sea and injured 32 other people may have been started as a diversion by thieves who stole money from the ship, Welsh police said yesterday.

Inspector Dai Davies, of Dyfed-Powys Police, said that he could not rule out a possible link between the fire and the theft, although he had no evidence to support the theory.

Police are still waiting for the results of tests by forensic scientists and they will be re-interviewing most of the 219 passengers and 71 crew interviewed and fingerprinted after the fire.

The theft of the money, which belonged to B&I, took place after the fire broke out. The company estimates that £3,000 was stolen.

Mr Davies said: "If there is a link, it might have been an opportunist theft by someone who took advantage of the confusion caused by the fire or it might have been a pre-planned diversion."

Police suspected arson after they discovered that there had been two fires in an unused passenger section on C deck, which was out of bounds.

Three Irishmen were questioned and released on police bail after 24 hours.

One detective said: "Someone among the passengers knows exactly what happened and must be getting fairly worried by now."

A rescue operation involving RAF helicopters and lifeboats took place after the fire broke out in a block of 10 cabins on the 9,000-ton Noronna.

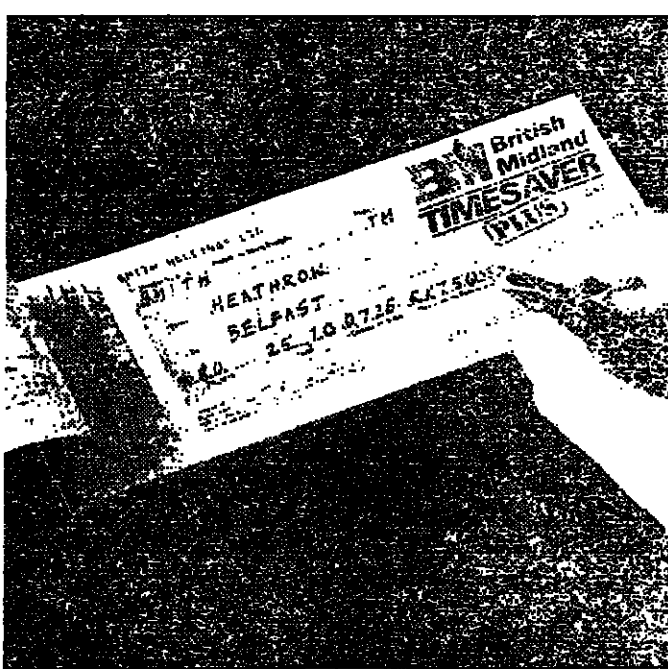
It was half-way through its four-hour journey from Pembroke Dock to Rosslare, Irish Republic, on a night sailing on 8 April, just a day after the fire on the Scandinavian Star in the North Sea in which nearly 200 people died.

Mr Michael Butterworth, aged 50, a management consultant, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, died on the Noronna. He was found overcome by smoke in his cabin.

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Baker bustles onward, community chargeometer at the ready



Mr Baker: Clark Gable of the Tories

IN HUSHED tones and with a certain girlish glee, the fine Tory womenfolk of Bury bustled around whispering about the imminent arrival of the chairman.

To the stranger they were imperious but once the name of Mr Kenneth Baker crossed their lips, these middle-aged Boddies suddenly came over all flushed like girls preparing for their first date or teenage fans waiting to catch a glimpse of their favourite film star.

Mr Baker is the best Clark Gable the Tory party has in its

senior ranks. Mr Michael Heseltine is much brasher, more Paul Newman. With his slicked back hair, winning smile and protective attention, Mr Baker did not let the loyal Tory ladies down.

"Let's have all the ladies," he announced to the assembled council candidates as the photographers got ready to snap the chairman on his first local election tour this year.

A photo-coup arrived in the shape of a nurse who is standing for the Tories in the local polls. Mr Baker did not lose a moment in setting up a shot which would suggest the Tories are the caring

party. Talking to the Tory candidates in Bury, Mr Baker unveiled for the second time this month his main weapon against Labour — the community chargeometer.

While he might pass for Clark Gable in Bury, Mr Baker does not do a good impression of Robert MacKenzie. No swings for the Tory chairman, "Red's up at the top, blue's down at the bottom," he said as he indicated how Labour councils charge higher poll taxes.

A hesitant candidate interjected: "I do not think the community charge has been publicized enough," she said.

There was a momentary silence. You could read the thoughts in some minds in the room — London riots, nationwide protests, fierce public debate and not publicized enough?

As Mr Baker waxed lyrical about the virtues of the poll tax as compared to a re-rating, one senior local Tory muttered: "You're joking."

Fifteen minutes with the Bury party and Mr Baker was off, after failing to meet a single voter. His day in the North-west — Bury, Rossendale, Bolton and Chorley — was not quite the "long march" followed by another chairman. Campaigning with Mr Baker is

rush and tear, all high-powered cars, mobile telephones, hotels and photo opportunities.

His message throughout the day was unwavering. "Conservative councils cost you less, Labour councils cost you more," he said at least a couple of dozen times in the morning. "That's the message of this election."

At Bolton his message remained the same despite the fact that the Tory headquarters in the town looked more like a bombed site — the result of several anti-poll tax bricks through the windows.

"Whoever threw the bricks is annoyed that our campaign is

hitting and finding targets," he announced.

"Isn't it a reflection of unpopularity?" a local reporter asked. "No," replied the chairman, half way out the door on to another venue for his chargeometer.

Mr Baker last night attacked Labour's local government campaign as a "triumph for rhetoric over action, packaging over substance and presentation over policy."

He accused Mr Brian Gould and Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour front bench spokesmen, of running "a fraudulent campaign, cynical and dishonest."

Kinnock says local elections will be poll tax referendum

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

LABOUR set out yesterday to turn the local government elections on May 3 into a national referendum on the Government, with the poll tax as its centrepiece.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, said at the Westminster launch of Labour's campaign that the Government had imposed the heaviest tax burden in history and caused the highest unemployment in 50 years, as well as bringing the biggest debts and the widest trade deficit. The poll tax was not an exception to government policies, but an exemplification of them.

The Government that had produced such a tax had no sense of judgement and no integrity, he said. People felt, and were right to feel, that they had been conned and swindled by such a Govern-

ment. Only now were ministers beginning to mouth the words of concession and compromise, and they were "incapable of regaining the trust of the majority."

Labour is committed to repealing the poll tax, but Mr Bryan Gould, the party's environment spokesman, said yesterday that it could be more than two years into the life of a Labour government before it was in a position to introduce a replacement.

Mr Kinnock said many of the 30 Labour MPs allegedly in favour of non-payment of the poll tax had come to realize that "those who make laws can't seek to change laws by breaking laws". He again condemned those responsible for violence at demonstrations, saying a fringe element from both left and right had

battered on to the issue.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, was at pains to play down expectations of sweeping Labour gains. While the party was in buoyant mood after the Mid Staffordshire by-election, the seats being contested were those last fought in 1986. Then Labour had gained 594 seats and had won control of 17 councils.

It would, he said, be an "outstanding performance on May 3 simply to retain that position". Dr Cunningham and Mr Kinnock refused to name councils where they hoped to win control.

With the Conservatives promising that their councils would keep costs down, Mr Kinnock deliberately offered a contrasting approach based on Labour's belief that people were prepared to vote and pay for better public services. Labour councils would bring "value for people as well as value for money".

Elections are being held for all seats in 32 London boroughs and nine Scottish regions and three islands. In addition there are contests for a third of the seats in 36 metropolitan districts and 120 non-metropolitan districts in England and Wales.

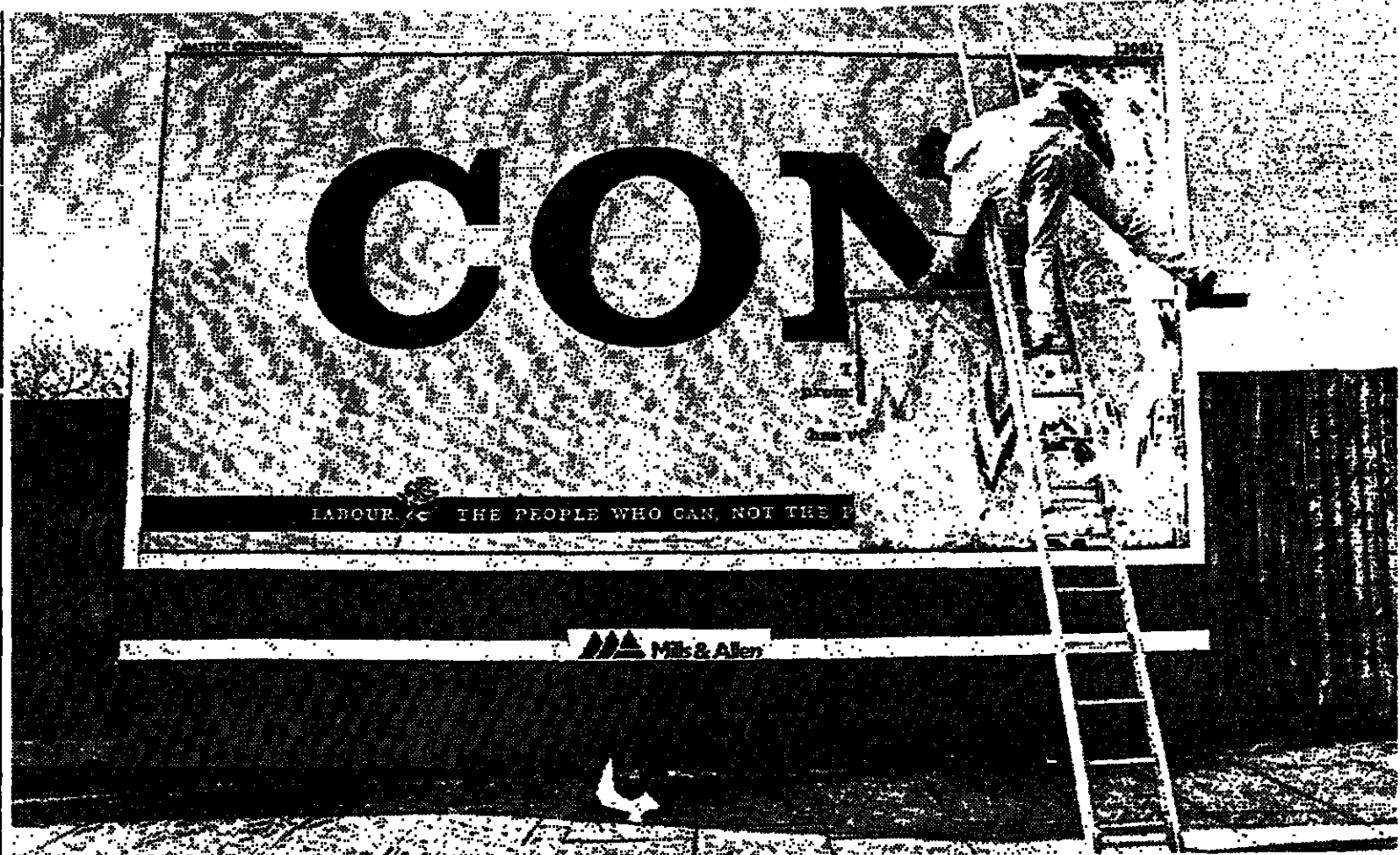
Of the London boroughs, Labour holds overall control in 15, the Conservatives in 12, the Liberal Democrats two, and three are hung councils. Of the 1,914 seats at stake, Labour will be defending 920, the Conservatives 696, the Liberal Democrats 175 and others 123.

In Scotland, Labour has overall control of four regional councils and minority control of one. Independents control one regional and three island councils, and there is no overall control in the other three. Labour will defend 223 seats, the Conservatives 61, the Liberal Democrats 41, the SNP 38, independents 151 and others 10.

In the English metropolitan districts, Labour has overall control of 30, the Conservatives of three. The Liberal Democrats have minority control of one and there is no overall control in the other two. Labour will defend 598 seats, the Conservatives 143, Liberal Democrats 87 and others 21.

Labour controls 43 of the non-metropolitan districts, the Conservatives 41, the Liberal Democrats seven, and there is no overall control in 22. Labour is defending 693 seats, the Conservatives 629, Liberal Democrats 371, independents 83, and others 40.

Labour controls four of the five Welsh districts being contested, with no overall control in the other. Labour defends 42 seats, the Conservatives 13, Liberal Democrats six, and others eight.



Late billing: The Labour campaign poster taking shape after Dr Cunningham gave up the attempt to salvage his photo-opportunity

Booklet dissects Tory promises

By Our Political Editor

A BOOKLET turning the local election campaign into a long-range prelude for the next general election has been produced for Labour Party workers.

The campaign is based on the slogan "Labour, the people who can, not the people who con" and the booklet compares Conservative promises and performance.

Instead of the zero inflation which was the Government's aim, inflation has doubled in two years, the booklet says. In Labour's last year of 1978, it was 8.3 per cent, the same as the EC average. Now it is 7.5 per cent compared with an EC average of 5.4 per cent. The trade deficit, it says, has been over £1 billion for each of the last 17 months.

Reminding voters of the "Labour isn't working" posters used by the Conservatives in 1979, Labour says that unemployment, at 1.7 million, is 51 per cent above 1979 levels.

Mortgage rates are at a record 15.4 per cent and have been under 10 per cent for only three months of this Government's time in office. The repayments on an average new mortgage since May 1988 has risen by £144 per month, the booklet says.

On the poll tax, it says the Government claimed the average bill would be £278. In practice it is £363.

Countering the Government's claim that the health service is expanding the number of patients treated, Labour's pamphlet says the number of acute in-patient treatments fell last year by 30,000 and the number of out-

patient attendances by 700,000.

A Labour government would introduce "customer contracts" telling residents what services they should expect from local councils, together with details of who will provide them, the cost of doing so and who to contact if things go wrong.

A revamp of Labour's local government policies, published to coincide with the campaign for May 3 and entitled *A Good Deal*, says that this will provide clear targets and disciplines for councils. The contracts are intended to set out such information as how often each street would be swept, how often litter bins would be emptied and the names and addresses of council officers.

Labour promises that council employees would be entitled to a minimum number of training days per year.

Outlining the practices of different Labour-controlled authorities, *A Good Deal* suggests that councils should give compensation to tenants if repairs are not carried out within a specified period and offer cash compensation to meals-on-wheels customers whose food arrives late or cold.

Labour would set up a quality commission for local authorities which would set out a model complaints procedure. It would encourage councils to have their own ombudsmen and to conduct yearly residents' attitude surveys, with results having to be published in the run-up to elections, which would take place every year.

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Labour poster promotion comes unstuck for an MP

By Robin Young

IT WAS all a bit of a con as far as Dr Jack Cunningham, the Labour Party's local election campaign co-ordinator, was concerned.

Dr Cunningham was at Vauxhall Cross in south London promptly at 9.30 am yesterday morning for a "photo opportunity" with one of 25 prominent poster sites Labour has booked to open its campaign for the local elections.

The theme of the poster echoes that of the full-page advertisements that began appearing in newspapers yesterday urging, "Don't fall for the Con," and promoting Labour as "the people who can, not the people who con".

They cannot put up their own posters, though, and

when Dr Cunningham arrived the designated poster site was disabligingly blank. Dr Cunningham kicked his heels at the kerbside for over an hour, but after frequent telephone calls to the bill-posting company's headquarters in Chessington, gave up and left for a press conference at Millbank.

The bill stickers — more precisely, a young man in a van — turned up at 11.15, one and three quarter hours late. He had been the victim of a typing error in his instructions from headquarters, it turned out, and had already pasted the poster to another billboard, just around the corner, but out of sight.

Mr Alan Campbell, regional director of the poster advertising company, Mills and Allen,

who arrived with a car phone to rectify the matter, offered apologies and Mr Charles Daniels, chairman of Mills and Allen, said last night: "It was sod's law. With 25 to put up all over the country in principal metropolitan areas, they all went up right except that one."

Mills and Allen promised last night to give Labour at least another 25 sites as compensation.

Mr Bryan Gould, who was to have shared the honour of launching the poster campaign with Dr Cunningham, drove up, appreciated that all was not well, and showing finely honed political instincts, drove away from the throng of photographers and reporters and parked down the road.

Party's 'tinpot dictators' attacked

By Kerry Gill

FOR the second time this week, the "tinpot dictators" of the Labour Party were criticized for their mishandling of local government, council junketing and arrogant abuse of power.

Yesterday, it was the Scottish National Party that lambasted Labour's record in local government, days after an attack by Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party.

The nationalists published a 10-point charter for local democracy that they claimed would establish the rights and responsibilities essential for healthy local government in Scotland.

Mr Michael Russell, vice-convenor of the SNP, said that, if it were carried out, the charter would bring genuine democracy to council chambers. "For too long, Labour have abused their control of councils, running them like tinpot

dictators in charge of one-party states," he said.

"Many Labour councillors act as if they owned Scottish local government, as if councils were there for their benefit, to provide them with expenses and foreign holidays, rather than to serve the public."

The charter includes proposals that the responsibilities of councils would be guaranteed in a written constitution of an independent Scotland, and that government interference would be kept at a minimum, ensuring that councils were free to raise and spend their resources as they saw fit.

The community charge would be abolished and replaced by a local income tax. Non-domestic rates would make way for a local business tax. Both would be based on the ability to pay.

The nationalists would create single-tier, multi-purpose councils elected by

proportional representation. The charter also says that councillors ought to be paid salaries commensurate with their responsibilities.

In order to curb "junketing", the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities should draw up a code of practice covering overseas visits, the charter says. Councillors would have to show that the visit would benefit the community.

Mrs Kathleen McAlorum, an SNP member of Motherwell District Council, said: "The need for genuine democracy and people power in local government is one of the principle demands emerging in the campaign for next month's regional elections."

"Scottish local government is under threat from the twin tyrannies of a hostile Tory government, attacking it from above through privatization and the poll tax, and authoritarian Labour abuse, letting it rot from within."

Forth may get third bridge

A THIRD bridge to span the Forth estuary may be built to cater for the burgeoning traffic volumes expected in the east of Scotland over the coming years, it emerged yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

A final decision is expected within the next 12 months and, if approval is given, the new crossing would be in place shortly after the turn of the century.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said there had been substantial pressure for a new bridge between the Lothians and Fife as traffic flow on the existing road bridge was approaching the density of the Severn Bridge.

A site for the bridge has not been pinpointed, but it would be almost certainly placed upstream from the existing crossing.

Pitch blessing

Mr Paul Welham, a Rugby League forward with Hull FC, will make his history at the club's Boulevard ground when his marriage to Miss Donna Gray is blessed on the pitch. The idea for the service on June 16 came from Miss Gray, who had never seen a rugby match before meeting Mr Welham last May.

Ex-judge's post

Mr John Murray, QC, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, is to be the first holder of the Dickson Minto Chair of Company and Commercial Law at Edinburgh University. Mr Murray, as Lord Dervard, resigned as a judge last year in the wake of allegations of homosexual behaviour.

Retail degrees

The Post Office is sponsoring a £250,000 chair in retailing at Manchester Business School to help shopkeepers prepare for the single European market after 1992.

Rain-forest cosmetics on way

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

MRS Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop natural cosmetics business, is trying to create a range of cosmetics from tropical rain forest products, she disclosed yesterday at a preview of a London conference to discuss saving the forests by the market economy.

The conference, entitled *The Rainforest Harvest*, will be opened by Prince of Wales, and will challenge the orthodoxy that the only economic potential of rain forests is for logging and clearance.

Experts from throughout the world will discuss "extractive management" of the forests by local people to provide non-wood products such as rubber, nuts, medicines, oils and perfumes, while leaving the forest itself intact.

The Prince has already publicly given his blessing to the idea in a speech at Kew earlier this year, in which he spoke of the "genocide" of indigenous forest inhabitants, adding: "There is a huge agricultural potential wrapped up in the rainforests."

Mrs Roddick said yesterday that she felt that such a course

was the only hope for saving the forests, but she expressed concern that extractive management should not itself become another form of exploitation.

There would have to be tight agreements so that forest peoples, such as Indians and rubber-tappers, received their rightful share of profits.

Mrs Roddick said: "The subject is fraught with difficulties and, commercially, is the most sensitive area I have ever stepped into."

"The real question is, can commerce really be green? We are dealing with some of the most knowledgeable and sensitive people on the planet — can we trade with them honourably?"

Mrs Roddick, whose Body Shop business has made her Britain's fourth-richest woman but not diminished her enthusiasm for environmental campaigning, said that her company was trying to create a range of 10 cosmetics from rain forest products. She hoped that they might be on the market in "about a year".

Brazil nuts were the most versatile and profitable pro-

duce, she said. The oil could be used as a skin softener. She also displayed Urucum seeds, which give a pure red pigment that could be used in lipstick; Babassu, a palm oil that could be used to soothe burns; Murumuru, and Andiroba oil, plant extracts that could be used as emollients; and Breu Branco, a resin from tree roots that smells like sandalwood.

Mrs Roddick has paid three visits to the Kayapo Indians in Brazil's Xingu province, and some of the products she hopes to use have been shown to her by them. Other products have been drawn to her attention, she said, by Dr Ghislain France, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, at Kew, and a principal backer of next month's conference.

Mrs Roddick disclosed that her company is also talking with the American maker of the most successful such product so far marketed, Rainforest Crunch, a confectionery bar made with rain forest brazil nuts and cashew nuts, with a view to producing it under licence in Britain.

Next month's conference, at

the Royal Geographical Society, is being held by an impressive alliance of bodies, including the RGS, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Body Shop, Friends of the Earth, the Ford Foundation, the International Institute for Environment and Development, and, in an unusual move, the Government, through the Overseas Development Administration.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, will address the conference.

Mr Roy Thomson, rain forest campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said yesterday that he hoped that the conference would influence the way in which British aid for the rain forests is used, in particular the £100 million promised by Mrs Thatcher when addressing the United Nations last November.

It was being held to coincide, and contrast, with a meeting in Bali of the International Tropical Timber Organization, which, he said, was "held up internationally as an organization to protect the rain forests, but only concerns itself with wood".

Firm bulldozed sand martins' nests to cut delay, court told

A GRAVEL firm chose to destroy a sand martins' nesting site rather than wait three months for the eggs to hatch and the young to be reared because it could not afford to lay men off, a court was told yesterday.

When a bird watcher complained to the firm at Hurst, Berkshire, the project manager told him he was not aware that destroying nests was a criminal offence.

The bird watcher, Mr Brian Bennett, told Bracknell magistrates that for several years he had been keeping an eye on the colony and had seen the sand martins increase from about 20 pairs in 1986 to more than 100 pairs in 1989.

A week before the nests were destroyed he had warned the gravel firm that the colony would be in danger unless work was halted. After he discovered the sandy bank had been bulldozed, he rang the project manager, Frank Quinn, to complain.

Mr Quinn told him that the firm, Redland Aggregate Ltd, had planned to wait for the birds to finish nesting but the local council had taken longer

than expected to decide their application to have a public footpath across the site moved.

That had set the gravel extraction behind schedule and when the council approval finally came, it was the middle of the birds' breeding season.

Mr Bennett, of Woodley, said he spoke to a digger driver, Anthony McMahon, at the site who said the work would be deferred for three months to let the young birds fly the nests.

However, when Mr Bennett returned a week later the digger had been used to level the sand bank.

Mr Quinn told him on the telephone that the destruction of the colony had been "regrettable" and added: "That particular site was the last gravel to be extracted."

Mr Quinn said that if work had not gone ahead, contractors would have had to lay men off. Mr Bennett told the magistrates: "I asked him if he knew that destroying birds' nests is an offence and he said he didn't know that."

Redland Aggregate, of

Bradgate House, Groby, Leicestershire, is being prosecuted with Mr Quinn, aged 46, of Annesley Road, Newport Pagnell, and Mr McMahon, aged 37, of Steptoe Close, Grove, Oxfordshire, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

They are jointly accused that between May 10 and May 16 last year they destroyed nests which were in use and wild birds' eggs. All three have pleaded not guilty.

A third charge, of destroying wild birds in the colony, was dropped after magistrates ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Mrs Eve Mee, a weighbridge clerk at the site, told the court she was telephoned by Mr Bennett and told about the sand martin colony being wiped out.

Mrs Mee, of Winnersh, said she then talked to Mr Quinn. "I said that it was a shame the birds had been destroyed. He said people's jobs would be affected, I would be made redundant and you could not afford to be sentimental in business."

The case continues today.

Tubes were part of gun, Ridley assures House

THE Government is entirely satisfied that the tubes seized by Customs and Excise as they were about to be exported to Iraq formed part of a gun, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told MPs yesterday.

Labour MPs criticized the Government for failing to act earlier and there were calls for Mr Ridley to resign. The opposition spokesman said that the Government had been deceived and duped on a grand scale.

In a statement to the Commons when the House resumed after the Easter recess, Mr

IRAQI ORDER

Ridley said that indications were that the tubes stopped at Teesport in Cleveland were part of a gun, albeit one of a scale outside anything previously experienced.

He added: "Until a few days ago, my department had no knowledge that the goods were designed to form part of a gun. If my department had known that purpose, then they would of course have advised that licence was necessary, and they would not have been granted."

"The Government recently became aware in general terms of an Iraqi project to develop a long-range gun based on designs developed by the late Dr Gerald Bull. The goods that were seized at Teesport, and related documents, are consistent with what is known of Dr Bull's design."

He congratulated the customs for stopping the export of the parts and he understood that it would not be possible to build a full-size gun from the parts already supplied.

Mr Gordon Brown, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that since 1988 the Department of Trade had had access to specifications and drawings and could have had access to the contract governing the export order. Why had no action been taken in that time?

The Government had taken no action even after it was known in June 1988 that the Iraqis had been involved in the project.

No action had been taken even when the Walter Somers company said to the department that they had evidence of an aiming and positioning device being ordered by Iraq.

Meetings should have taken place on that matter between the department, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office.

Why had nothing been said for a week after Customs and Excise had seized the consignment and the media had been briefed that this was merely a petrochemical order?

"This Government has been deceived and duped on a grand scale and, but for the intervention of Customs and Excise staff, serious military consequences could have resulted."

There had been slackness and complacency of an almost criminal dimension.

"Is Mr Ridley's department going to accept responsibility and will he now announce he is setting up an independent inquiry to establish the degree of culpability?"

Mr Ridley: I must say that is going over the top on a scale outside anything previously experienced (laughter). I do seriously counsel him not to

believe everything he reads in the press.

In the light of the fact that Customs and Excise are considering taking out prosecutions I cannot answer detailed questions without prejudicing the rights of people who may be on trial and it would be quite wrong to pre-empt any trial by what I say in the House of Commons.

Sir John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said that Walter Somers, a long established and highly respected firm in his constituency, had acted in close co-operation with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Replies he had received from the department and from another department had been in terms of the television series *Yes, Minister*. This difficult situation should be cleared up as quickly as possible.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that Iraq might have already used chemical long-range delivery weapons and had threatened recently to do so against Israel.

Would he assure MPs that nothing would be done to appease the immensely dangerous ambitions of this ugly regime and its dictator?

Mr Ridley replied that nobody could condone the plans Iraq was thought to have.

It was quite right to control strictly the export of armament material.

Sir Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said that, more than two years ago, he had made to the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence and a third agency an offer by Walter Somers to withdraw from the contract or to meet it or to enable it to be traced or just to carry on with it.

He had repeated that offer 12 months later.

"Does he share my surprise that there could be any question of prosecuting the company for any contravention of regulations or lack of good faith in this matter?" (Labour shouts of "Resign" to Mr Ridley).

Mr Ridley said that it would be wrong to answer the last part of the question since that would prejudice any possible proceedings.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) said that this country was the world's second largest arms supplier.

Every rifle-rattling country looking for weapons of destruction would come knocking at Britain's door. Extra vigilance had to be maintained. Clearly that had been lacking.

Mr Ridley said that extra vigilance had resulted in the Customs and Excise's success, not very long after a further success was achieved with the discovery of the nuclear trigger devices.



Mr Nicholas Ridley, whom the Opposition said had been duped on a grand scale

New moves on cot deaths

THE Government is waiting for the findings of an expert working group before acting on claims that the emission of toxic gases from soiled mattresses may be responsible for cot death syndrome.

In reply to pressure from both sides of the Commons yesterday and a charge of complacency from the Labour front bench, Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Con-

RESEARCH

sumer Affairs, said that the Government was taking a responsible and measured view.

Mr Forth said that the Department of Health had written to the Department of Trade and Industry on June 7 last year about research by Dr Barry Richardson into cot deaths and

a copy of Dr Richardson's report had been received by the department on June 12.

As a result, the laboratory of the Government Chemist had been asked to undertake a scientific assessment of the research work. A group of independent experts had also been asked to investigate further claims by Dr Richardson about emission of toxic gases from soiled mattresses.

Solicitors will have to accept 'cab rank' rule

COURTS BILL

THE Government has bowed to the Lords and accepted a change to the Courts and Legal Services Bill requiring solicitors acting as advocates to operate the "cab rank" rule. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, told the Commons yesterday.

Under the rule at present, barristers are required to take cases offered to them, popular or unpopular, difficult or easy.

Moving the second reading of the Bill, which provides for extensive changes to the legal profession and ends several restrictive practices, Sir Patrick said that the Government had now decided to accept the principle of the Lords amendment on the "cab rank" rule.

That amendment excluded those rights of audience in the superior courts that solicitors enjoyed at present.

The Government proposed, having consulted the Law Society and the Bar Council, that the Bill should provide for a wider application of the "cab rank" principle. It would apply to all rights of audience granted by any professional body in whatever court or proceedings.

The Government would bring forward its own amendment to give effect to the policy in due course and, consistently with the principle of non-discrimination, would bring forward amendments to apply to the Bar the Race Relations Act, 1976, and the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, to cover discrimination in professional relationships at the Bar and between barristers and those instructing them.

Sir Patrick said that in the Government's opinion, going to law in civil cases was all too often unduly complex, was needlessly inconvenient, took too long and could be disproportionately expensive.

The first part of the Bill was intended to make public access to justice simpler, quicker and more convenient.

The second part of the Bill, on the development of legal services for the public, would lead to better and more efficient administration of justice.

The High Court would be reserved for judicial review cases, specialist cases and general cases of unusual substance, importance or difficulty.

That would speed the handling of those cases and would make cheaper, swifter and more convenient procedures and services in the county courts where cases were smaller and less complex.

The road to the reform would have to be travelled by stages, but much of the necessary work was under way.

Extra funds were available this year to provide for court services as a whole an increase of about 350 staff.

The part of the Bill on small claims procedure justified the Government's claim that it would make public access to justice simpler, quicker, more convenient and more cost effective. When so much was in train it was idle to criticize the Bill for not containing a big element on legal aid.

The legal profession had undergone in recent years many great changes, many of which they had instituted themselves. But it was no less important to help that evolution to continue by ensuring that there were no unnecessary restrictions hindering the public in obtaining legal services.

The general test should be whether the restriction was appropriate to maintain the proper and efficient administration of justice; if it was not, it should go.

The Government proposed that rights of audience before a particular court should depend solely on whether advocates could demonstrate that they had the appropriate education and training and were bound by appropriate codes of conduct.

The courts and the public would have to be satisfied that advocates could meet the high standards of competence and conduct.

Leading article, 13

Exports to Japan up 29%

Britain's manufactured exports to Japan increased by 29 per cent last year, to £1,936 million, "quite an achievement", Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said at Commons questions.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said there was still a huge surplus in favour of Japan and the improvement referred to by the Secretary of State was only a "sea-bite".

Mr Ridley said that Britain was on course to double exports to Japan in three years to this year.

Tributes paid to peer

When the House of Lords resumed yesterday, tributes were paid to Lord Bruce-Clarke, a former Conservative Treasury minister, who died during the recess.

Lord Bruce of Donington, Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said the whole House regretted his untimely death. During the past 18 months, Lord Bruce-Clarke had shown "exemplary courage in the face of adversity".

The Earl of Calthorpe, Paymaster General, said that the House would wish to join in Lord Bruce of Donington's comments.

British Steel 'transformed'

British Steel had secured a huge transformation to make it one of the most efficient and productive steel industries in the world, Mr Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Industry, said during Commons questions.

In 1980, the UK produced 84 tonnes a man year; in 1988, the figure was 347 tonnes.

UDR deaths

An application by the Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP) for an emergency debate on the murder of four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers by the IRA last week was rejected by the Speaker.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister; British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill, second reading.
Lords (3): National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, first day.

Labour angry at 'cut' questions

LABOUR MPs clashed with the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) over the time he had allowed for questions about the seizure of metal tubes bound for Iraq.

After 20 minutes of questioning of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Speaker indicated that he soon intended to move to the next business.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) shouted: You are always doing this. You know he is in trouble. You are covering for him.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said: He is on the rack.

During points of order later, Mr Skinner said that he suspected the existence of a hitherto unknown standing order

IRAQI ORDER

which was to protect ministers when under fire.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that he had never before heard a minister refuse to answer a perfectly legitimate question because there might be a case.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said that only five MPs had still been trying to ask questions when the Speaker had ended the exchanges.

The Speaker said that he could easily have allowed questions to run on, but that would be unfair to those who wished to speak in the subsequent debate.

necessary, of a public local inquiry into objections".

The committee gave further ammunition to the opponents of private legislation by suggesting that the carrying over of Bills from one session to the next should be limited; that no Bill should be carried over more than two sessions and that every Bill outstanding when Parliament is dissolved should be subject to a separate revival motion and not brought back *en bloc* as at present.

The committee also came forward with detailed procedural changes to stop debates on technical motions which now cause delay. Many Bills to which there is no real opposition are delayed by opponents of later Bills using delaying tactics merely to clog the system.

The joint committee points the way to easing that bottleneck, too, by requiring reasons to be stated for blocking each Bill and requiring more MPs to sign blocking motions.

But none of these proposals seems set for early implementation. Sir Geoffrey told MPs that existing arrangements had worked quite well and had lasted a long time. Any changes should work as well and be as enduring.

He was looking at the matter, not only with a sense of urgency, but with some care.

When pressed to say when he would come forward with changes, Sir Geoffrey said this session, but admitted that some changes might require "substantial legislation".

Unless he acts soon, Conservative backbenchers will find many of their Thursday evenings spent in the division lobbies rather than on the way back to their constituencies for the weekend.

Dodging the planners

By Robert Morgan

AS PARLIAMENT reassembles after the Easter break, government business managers are finding that three hours a week of their valuable time are having to be devoted to private Bills.

A backlog of more than a dozen private Bills now stands on the Order Paper, and if opponents keep up their fight, almost every Thursday evening, between now and the end of July will have to be devoted to debating these measures. Thursday being the traditional days for the consideration of opposed private business.

Private Bills gets less attention than any other parliamentary business, yet they are of vital importance and can have wide repercussions.

Anyone may promote a private Bill, but in the main they are brought forward by three broad groups: British Rail and other transport undertakings; local authorities; and companies wishing to undertake big construction works.

It is the last category that is causing the blockage in the parliamentary system because opponents believe that Parliament has no role to play. They argue that companies wishing to build docks and other constructions should go through the normal local planning process where, they believe, their plans would be rejected. In the Commons, a sympathetic Government with a big majority can ensure that such proposals get through.

Both Houses became concerned about the private Bill procedure and in 1987 they set up a joint committee to examine the issue. Nearly two years ago it published a 290-page report containing 52 conclusions and

PRIVATE BILLS

recommendations. So far the Government has failed to act; and the tone of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, in a debate before Christmas, suggests that it is not minded to act in the near future, if at all.

Opponents of the private Bill procedure, mainly Labour MPs, believe that the system is being abused by the introduction of "political" elements and the use of unofficial whipping by the Government to get Bills through.

Among the most contentious in recent years have been those promoted by Associated British Ports to allow the company to expand harbour facilities at Immingham on the Humber and Port Talbot in South Wales.

MPs from mining areas maintained that the reason for expanding the ports was to allow the import of cheap coal from South Africa and elsewhere. They complained that ministers, including the Prime Minister, were coming to the Commons specifically to vote the measures through. Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover and an arch-opponent of the private Bill procedure, said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher once turned up in her bedroom slippers.

Many MPs want such issues dealt with by a local planning inquiry where opponents to the project would get a better hearing. The joint committee accepted the argument and suggested that all works proposals for which a private Bill was at present required "should instead be authorized through non-parliamentary procedures involving the holding, where

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Get on top of tomorrow

Solidarity seeks fresh role in a post-communist Poland

From Roger Boyes
Gdansk

FRESH paint's characteristic odour masks the whiff of cordite in Gdansk's Oliwa Hall; it was here that Solidarity, in the precarious days of 1981, called on the workers of the Warsaw Pact to cast off their chains. Moscow's tanks immediately began revving their engines, and General Jaruzelski, now the Polish President, put the finishing touches to his secret plans for martial law.

Now, as Solidarity gathers for its second congress, the terms have changed. The Warsaw Pact resembles a gentlemen's club in decline, strapped for cash and constantly losing members.

Mr Lech Walesa, the star of 1981, has put on weight and picked up a Nobel Peace Prize, and is aiming to be President. Mr Jacek Kuron, the gregarious dissident and Solidarity adviser, is now a chauffeur-driven minister.

The issue is not how to break the spine of totalitarian rule, but how best to use the new freedoms.

Solidarity must determine whether it

is a trade union, a broadly based reform movement, or a governing party. That is a big enough agenda for a five-day congress, but it must in addition decide the future of Mr Walesa. Can he remain chairman of Solidarity and still stand for President of Poland?

Mr Andrzej Slowik, the Solidarity leader in Lodz, thinks not. "I am against one person accumulating both trade union and state functions," he said.

This is more than a family affair. The real task of the congress is to determine the new political balance in the post-communist era. A year ago round-table talks agreed to give communists and their allies a dominant say in the lower house of Parliament, paved the way for free elections for the upper house, and provided for a communist President.

That formula has unravelled. The communists have split into two nominally social democratic parties. Mr Walesa manoeuvred Solidarity into government, and Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki became East Europe's first non-communist Prime Minister.

The fast-moving events in the dis-

integrating Eastern bloc have made Poland look rather behind the times. As President of Poland, Mr Walesa would put his foot on the accelerator.

This pits him directly against Mr Mazowiecki, his old adviser. The round table was precisely about recognizing limitations. Mr Mazowiecki would clearly like to plead openly for Lithuanian independence but cannot; governmental Realpolitik constrains him. He needs another year of stable rule in which to implement unpopular monetarist policies and bring in a free market.

Mr Walesa, however, will not give him this time. In General Jaruzelski, Mr Mazowiecki has a very pliant President. If Mr Walesa were to take over the considerable powers of the presidency, Mr Mazowiecki would have a constant fight on his hands.

The lines of confrontation at the congress are thus very complex. There are Solidarity delegates who, although no friends of Mr Walesa, will urge him to run for the presidency of Poland simply to ease him out of the union chairmanship. In their view, Solidarity has lost

ground as a union over the past year because Mr Walesa wants to be a partner, indeed the senior partner, in government rather than a demanding trade unionist.

The union has only a quarter of its 1981 membership, that is about 2.5 million (only about a million of whom pay their dues). As the economy falters, so the union has weakened. Although Solidarity deputies set the pace in the Polish Parliament, the trade union has no real lobby there.

Solidarity, then, has to recover its union roots and find a thrusting chairman. Mr Walesa is not afraid to challenge the Government, but he does so from different motives. His large new Gdansk house, surrounded by apple trees, symbolizes his distance from workers who feel cheated by market reforms. If Mr Walesa yields the chairmanship of the union, what is left for him? — the network of citizens' committees, political cells that are supposed to ginger up reform.

They are led by Professor Zdzislaw Najder, Mr Walesa's nominee and a

former director of Radio Free Europe. Together they are creating an embryo political party, also under a Solidarity banner but quite distinct from the trade union. This will be the platform for Mr Walesa, should he launch a bid for the Polish presidency.

There is, in this swirl of politicking, a great deal of dirty and underhanded conspiracy. A forged interview between Professor Bronislaw Geremek, head of the Solidarity caucus, and Hanna Krall, a respected journalist, has been circulating among parliamentary deputies. Its intent was plainly anti-Semitic, with much talk of Jews wanting to seize power.

But this is only one symptom of the infighting between the social democratic wing of Solidarity (broadly represented by Professor Geremek) and the ultra-nationalists, who still march under the Solidarity banner.

There is considerable grassroots revolution against such scheming, and considerable pressure on congress delegates to maintain a unified Solidarity movement. Partly this is sentimental, partly a

recognition that open splits will plunge Poland into a panicky limbo.

Mr Walesa's rating in popularity polls has dropped significantly over the past two months, while Mr Mazowiecki's remains surprisingly high. This is because of resentment at Mr Walesa's sniping against the Government. Mr Walesa concluded that either he should stop criticizing or take on the formal responsibilities of power.

The lesson to be drawn from countries such as Britain, Mr Walesa's advisers say, is that a society cannot successfully introduce a decentralized market economy while dispersing political authority. The transition needs strong central government — something that is missing from the present Solidarity line-up.

Mr Walesa should thus graduate from workers' champion to statesman. Whether the congress will give its blessing is another matter.

In the words of Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, the Solidarity leader from Wroclaw: "Solidarity must now show that it is more than a tool for dismantling the communist system."

Soviet graft investigators win support of parliament

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

TWO Soviet investigators turned popular heroes won a signal victory against the Soviet establishment yesterday when the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, voted against removing their immunity from prosecution and recommended instead a top-level inquiry into the whole judicial system.

The head of the Soviet judiciary, the Chief Procurator, Mr Aleksandr Sukharyov, is now expected to resign or be dismissed.

A resolution passed by the parliament, after nearly two days of heated debate, said that the investigators — Mr Telman Gdylan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov — should lose their posts with the Soviet procuratorate, although they could retain their immunity from prosecution.

They were warned to end their political activity or risk

forfeiting their immunity in the future.

The resolution also ordered the judiciary, the police and the KGB to identify and punish those responsible for monitoring the work of the two investigators. A special committee is also to be set up to investigate official corruption.

For the past year the two investigators have been campaigning vociferously against charges that some of their methods constituted "gross violations of the law".

In so doing, they have accused members of the Soviet leadership, including President Gorbachev, of sheltering bribe-takers. Mr Ivanov last week made an unauthorized broadcast on Leningrad television in which he repeated the allegations.

The Gdylan-Ivanov case, as it became known, developed into a rallying point for those convinced — through experience or rumour — that the entire bureaucracy is riddled with corruption.

The two investigators, as "little men" with the guts to take on the system, attracted the same constituency of support as Mr Boris Yeltsin, the ousted Moscow party leader. They were elected to the Congress of People's Deputies last year on a wave of popular support for their defiance, and members of their campaign team also gained seats in last month's local and republican elections.

The only difference between the two investigators and Mr Yeltsin was that they were expected to lose. Before yesterday's Supreme Soviet session, called to debate a parliamentary commission's report into the conduct of the two investigators, it had been predicted that parliament would simply remove their parliamentary privilege and so expose them to immediate prosecution.

On Monday more than 10,000 people joined a demonstration outside the Kremlin in their support. Many shouted slogans proclaiming the innocence of the two investigators; some even condemned Mr Gorbachev for — as they saw it — tolerating a corrupt judiciary for so long.

In the event, the parliamentary commission, which was chaired by the historian and erstwhile Marxist dissident, Mr Roy Medvedev, found the charges against Mr Gdylan and Mr Ivanov proved and called for their dismissal.

It went on, however, to set their misdemeanours in the context of the Soviet judicial system as a whole, laying particular blame on the Chief Procurator, Mr Sukharyov, and other senior law officials.

They, it said, had fully supported the work of the two investigators until their inquiries threatened to become a political embarrassment.

Intellectuals in Baltic squeeze

From Anatol Levin, Tallinn

WHEN Professor Yuri Afanasyev, a leader of the Russian Democratic Platform, announced to a Lithuanian rally 10 days ago that the republic's declaration of independence "marks the beginning of the end of the Russian Empire" he was expressing what for him may be a hope, but for most Russians in the Baltic is definitely a fear.

Many Russian intellectuals here support the independence movement, but they are well aware that they are a minority in their own nationality. Their position is not happy, caught as they are between the expectations of their indigenous friends of unconditional support for independence and accusations of "treachery" from the Russians.

Dr Yevgeni Golikov is one of the leaders, with Professor Afanasyev, of the Democratic Platform in Moscow, deputy editor of the Russian magazine *Politika* in Estonia, and a supporter of Estonian independence. "Many Russians call me a traitor," he told me last week, "but I believe my stance is that of a Russian patriot."

He quoted the writer Lermontov: "I love my Motherland, but with a different kind of love..." Mr Golikov did not quote another verse by the same poet beginning "Farewell to unwashed Russia..." The traditional gap between the Russian intelligentsia and the "dark people" — in the Baltic the Russian working classes — is however a crucial factor in Russian politics here.

In the words of Mr Dimitri Mikhailov, chairman of a Russian cultural society which supports the Estonian Popular Front: "What is the point of our immersing ourselves in the sea of workers? We would lose our identity and their cultural level would hardly be raised."

Reflecting the "Westernizing" strand in the Russian intellectual tradition, Mr Golikov said: "My position is that of a Western democrat living on the border of Europe. I see in this a certain chance for the Russian nation. I feel that, through living in Estonia, I have grown to be a freer person than my fellow intellectuals in Moscow and Leningrad, and I think that my duty as a Russian living here will be to transmit this to the Russian people."

Reflecting a view shared by many Russian conservatives, Mr Golikov spoke of the "cultural genocide" practised by the Soviet system against Russia itself. This was echoed indirectly by a leading member of the Soviet Communist party in Lithuania, Mr Mikhail Alexeyev, who said that the Russian population's "lack of their own cultural identity" is one reason for their "insecurity and tension".

Many Russian intellectuals in the Baltic have become so much a part of the local independence movement that they are incapable of considering the possibility — so real to most ordinary Russians — that the break-up of the Soviet empire could lead to great suffering for the Russian population in its outlying republics.

Exodus hits East German output

From Anne McElvey
East Berlin

EAST Germany's outdated industry, stricken by the exodus of workers to the West, has suffered a greater than expected slump in productivity, according to figures released yesterday.

The Government Office for Statistics, free for the first time to report the unvarnished truth on the state of the country's industry, said that industrial output in the first quarter of the year had fallen 4.7 per cent behind the figure for the same period last year.

Herr Arno Donda, who heads the statistics office, said that 124,000 posts were now unfilled in industry, while the building sector was short of 33,000 workers.

New ecological pressures had caused many factories to decrease production, thereby also reducing productivity.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to dispense with a glut of over-priced and old-fashioned electrical goods, East German stores yesterday drastically cut the prices of colour televisions and radios. The most popular home-produced colour television, which sold for 4,900 Ostmarks (£1,700), has been halved in price in an attempt to woo custom back from West Germany.

The same development Herr Friedrich Wolff, the president of East Germany's Lawyers' Association, warned yesterday that legal services were sliding into chaos in the climate of uncertainty.

● **BONN:** Border formalities along the inter-German frontier should be abolished by midsummer, officials said yesterday (Girard Steichen writes).

The West German Interior Minister, Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, and his East German counterpart, Herr Peter-Michael Diestel, meeting in Bonn, said the era of Cold War espionage between the two countries had largely ended.

Mitterrand to meet Bush for talks on Nato's future

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

AN AIR France Concorde will speed President Mitterrand to the Florida coast today for a brief meeting with President Bush at which the future of the Atlantic alliance will head the agenda.

In the few hours available to them at Key Largo, they are expected to concentrate on discussing the role of France in the much changed equation of European security.

Although both sides are emphasizing that the two leaders get on excellently and fully respect each other's positions, sources here say that Mitterrand is in no mood to be pressured about his country's relations with Nato.

According to one well-placed observer, France will resist any plans for restructuring the alliance that Paris considers "too far" towards turning Nato into an organization dealing with worldwide issues.

At the same time, the French Government remains unwaveringly opposed to participation in Nato's integrated military structure. According to Elysée Palace sources, the Americans have never made any such request officially "and in private they have actually distanced the US from the British campaign, which they consider to be mistaken".

The same sources also insist that there is no reason why the US should now raise objections to the Gaullist defence doctrine that has kept American troops off French soil.

The view from Washington may well be different, but some observers here consider it significant that Mr Bush told *The Times* earlier this week that the US has turned down the idea of appointing a French officer to head the integrated command.

Recently floated by the Pentagon as a possible inducement for "movement" by the French on this touchy issue, the idea was coolly received in military circles here. As M

Mitterrand readily concedes, France shares the Bush Administration's concerns and broad policy objectives on the method by which a unified Germany can be integrated into Nato without unduly alarming Moscow. Paris regards the European Community's role in developing a new definition of European security as particularly important. The same goes for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

President Mitterrand's recent musings on the need for a "European axis of defence" should not cause concern in the White House, according to M Hubert Vedrine, the Elysée spokesman. "We are talking about the same issue, how Western Europe can play a more important role in the alliance. There is nothing new or threatening in that for the US."

There was no question of seeking to replace the Atlantic alliance with a system of collective security within Europe, Mr Vedrine insisted. "It is vital to maintain proper defence and a real alliance with the US... We must keep a counter-balance to the Soviet Army in Europe."

Like Mrs Thatcher, M

Mitterrand was sent on his way to the mini-summit with some highly unwelcome opinion polls. His personal support has slipped sharply to below 50 per cent, apparently reflecting widespread unease among the French — above all, among younger people — over the lack of positive leadership from the Elysée Palace in recent months.

With internal feuds still convulsing the Socialist Party and the debate on immigration and racism at its height, Mitterrand seems increasingly reluctant to take a firm stand on important issues.

With internal feuds still

convulsing the Socialist Party and the debate on immigration and racism at its height, Mitterrand seems increasingly reluctant to take a firm stand on important issues.

He told his listeners that Labour's "spasm" of objections to the operation of markets had passed. The party had realized, he said, that an economic policy driven by

only national considerations would not succeed. He expressed his satisfaction at President Bush's remarks, in an interview with *The Times* on Monday, that any special relationship with Britain will continue under Labour. He said that his talks were marked by a "cordiality" that would not have been present four years ago.

He was careful, however, not to push his luck before US audiences which, while having some differences with Mrs Thatcher over European integration, are essentially more at ease with Tory free market credentials than with Labour economic management, by whatever name it is known.

He refused to be drawn into direct criticism of either the Prime Minister or former President Reagan.

He restricted himself to calling for Britain to be "a vigorous member of the EC". He promised only that Labour would take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System as long as the entry rate was right, that the move would not be deflationary, and that it was backed by a strong regional policy.

Future visits to spread Labour's economic word are to take place later this year, in a city where "networking" of personal contacts is a pre-eminent source of power, Mr Smith is keen to get his face known. And he reminded them of the recent economists' poll which so greatly preferred him for 11 Downing Street over the present Conservative incumbent.



Romanian orphans testing the Mediterranean waters at the Spanish resort of Playa de Aro yesterday. A total of 62 children were invited for a holiday by the Spanish Tourist Board to mark a visit by Mr Petre Roman, the Romanian Prime Minister, for talks on co-operation in several fields, including tourism

Estonia to print own currency

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

ESTONIA has signed a contract with an unnamed foreign firm to print banknotes with a face value of 100 million new krona to replace the Soviet rouble, making it the first constituent Soviet republic to produce its own currency.

Postscript, the independent news agency, yesterday quoted Mr Rain Oksanen, president of the Estonian Bank, as saying that printing would start next week. The new notes, to go into circulation from December 24, will be slightly larger than a 10-rouble note. Printing costs are put at £1.5 million.

Estonia, like any other member of the Soviet Union wanting to declare monetary independence, faces difficult negotiations with Moscow over how to handle the consequences, the central question being what to do with the unwanted roubles for which the new currency will be exchanged.

When new currencies have been adopted by countries emerging from economic and political dependence in the past, holdings of the previous currency have been retained by the government as the core of the country's foreign exchange reserves. This was the pattern adopted by Britain's former colonies.

The rouble has two deficiencies in this respect. First, since it is not freely convertible into other currencies — and is not likely to be for at least 10 years — it is of limited value as a reserve currency.

Second, the usefulness of holdings of unconvertible roubles depends heavily on continuing good relations with the rest of the Soviet Union.

Baffling rise in close encounters of the Hungarian kind

By Gabriel Romy

IN THIS spring of hope and democratic renewal, the thoughts of Hungarians appear to be turning to UFOs. The number and variety of sightings of unidentified flying objects has forced the state-run Urania Observatory to set up a special unit for the logging of reports, among them one fairly close encounter of the third kind.

According to the Centre for the Gathering of UFO Phenomena, opened in January in the northern town of Eger, some of the hundreds of reported UFO sightings follow well-known patterns. These include high-flying planes, Earth satellites, meteorites, meteorological balloons, and bright stars mistaken for UFOs.

But others do not fit these well-explored sources of UFO mania. Several of the baffling sightings, some involving Hungarian Army personnel, have been found by the Centre to be more than optical illusions and worthy of scientific investigation.

Mrs Judit Vass, of the Centre, singled out a series of inexplicable events, involving UFO sightings and an apparent encounter with giant extra-terrestrial creatures, at Tarnaszentmaria army barracks. These continued for about a month and were duly logged by the Army.

According to the testimony of the entire unit, the UFO intrusion began on the night of October 20 last year with an eerie noise which

increased in volume every 20 seconds or so. Then one of the guards noticed three shiny round objects, preceded by a beam of light. After a while these disappeared over the forest behind the barracks.

On November 20, soldiers on guard duty noticed a cloud of red mist in the sky with curious flashing lights inside it, followed by a UFO, shaped like the planet Saturn, which floated over the barracks and disappeared over the forest. Two of the guards reported that they were illuminated briefly by a powerful beam of light which made them sick.

Later that night Private Lajos Döszegi spotted 10-ft tall figures in the forest clearing facing the barracks. "They were moving as if they

were chess pieces," he stated. "All the animals in the barracks — pigs, sheep and dogs — became frantic, and one of the guard dogs, maddened by fear, broke its steel chain and ran away."

Mrs Vass said that among the many sightings awaiting evaluation was the report of a driver from the village of Lajosmizse who suddenly became aware of a "flying light phenomenon" going parallel with his car, then above it. It was so powerful that it illuminated a 50-yard stretch either side of the road. When he came to a bend he braked, but his car continued on the road at the same speed and cornered at a 90-degree angle without skidding.

The driver felt that "some ex-

ternal power" kept his car on the road as he had lost control. It lasted for another 200 yards then abruptly ceased.

Mrs Vass said that, while there may well be perfectly rational explanations for some of the reports, "we cannot ignore the inexplicable phenomena reported to us".

It is a curious coincidence that the number of UFO sightings in the Soviet Union in recent years appeared to increase as the country's economic and political problems mounted.

But most Hungarians seem to be looking to the International Monetary Fund for salvation, not to extra-terrestrial beings. Still the UFOs keep coming.



Mr Smith: Careful not to push his luck in US

Christian crossfire kills children in Beirut school bus

From A Correspondent, west Beirut

RELENTLESS fighting in Lebanon's civil war caused yet another tragedy yesterday when a school bus carrying children home came under crossfire between rival Christian forces in east Beirut, burning to death its driver and 14 pupils.

Rescue workers could not hold back their tears while evacuating the small charred bodies from the skeleton of a bus that was hit by scores of explosive bullets on the strip of "no man's land" separating the warring forces.

The bus was carrying the children from their west Beirut school, Ecole des Freres-Maryjeh, to their homes on the Christian side of town when it suddenly came under the exchange of fire between troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and militiamen under Mr Samir Geagea. A burst of machinegun fire from the militia side hit the bus and set it on fire.

Nine people were able to leave the bus with injuries and

burns. The rest met with their God," said a Red Cross worker on the scene.

The tragedy occurred soon after a huge explosion ripped through an army base east of Beirut, killing three officers and wounding many others.

The explosion, which is thought to have been caused by sabotage, set fire to and devastated two floors of the building which houses the army's elite "Strike Force", loyal to General Aoun.

The three officers, among them a major, were buried alive under the rubble while many officers and men, including the commander of the "Strike Force", Captain Tony Abi-Samra, were wounded.

An army spokesman claimed that the blast was set off accidentally while troops were moving ammunition. "Soldiers were moving ammunition confiscated from the militia to one of the bases when a shell exploded, killing two soldiers," the spokesman said without elaborating. The

bombing-out building is situated inside the Defence Ministry compound, which is only a mile away from General Aoun's bunker under the presidential palace of Beirut's Yarzeh suburb.

Soldiers in tanks and armoured personnel carriers immediately threw a strict cordon around the area, preventing journalists and passers-by from approaching and firing off their machine-guns into the air.

The explosion followed two days of fierce clashes in and around the heavily populated areas of Beirut between General Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia during which two people were killed and three were wounded.

The two sides have been locked in combat since January 31 over supremacy of the Christian enclave in central Lebanon where around a million Christians live. The fighting has so far killed 910 people and wounded 3,500.

Jewish settlers defy court order

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

THE 150 Jewish settlers occupying a Christian pilgrim's hospital in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday defied a ruling by the Jerusalem District Court late on Tuesday ordering them out.

The settlers, who had originally said they would obey any court ruling, claimed the eviction order did not take effect for another three weeks, giving them further time in which to appeal to the Supreme Court.

But the Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the building, said the settlers were finding "one excuse after another" to stay and might have to be forced out by government bailiffs.

Arab residents on Christian Quarter Road put it more bluntly. "We want them out," said Said, an Arab shopkeeper, who sells pottery and carved wooden camels to tourists in the narrow, winding streets of the Old City. "They do not belong here," he added angrily. "They want to take everything over."

At the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate a few hundred yards away, a crowd of Arab youths and girls, many of them schoolchildren, gathered by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most venerated shrine in Christendom, and vented their anger by chanting Palestinian nationalist slogans.

Some ran into the Holy Sepulchre, built over the presumed site of Christ's crucifixion and burial, and raised the flag of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The young protesters had no doubt about who lay

behind the move to establish a Jewish presence in the Christian Quarter: for them the villain of the piece is Ariel (Arik) Sharon, the corpulent and charismatic former general who resigned from the Cabinet two months ago because his views on the Palestinian question were too hard-line even for Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the right-wing Prime Minister, who himself set up a home in the adjacent Muslim quarter three years ago.

The sudden invasion of the mostly Arab Christian Quarter by Jewish settlers has certainly had the effect of bringing Arab Christians and Muslims together, with Palestinian nationalism as a common cause.

But yesterday the settlers - the women in headscarves or berets, the men in white shirts and skullcaps - refused to acknowledge that they have disturbed the status quo on which the fragile equilibrium of Jerusalem depends.

"Our presence here is legitimate," the settlers' spokesman said. "This is normal population diffusion. Jews have the right to live anywhere in Jerusalem."

Tensions remained high in Gaza yesterday as the Strip entered a third day of serious rioting, with schoolchildren burning tyres and throwing stones at troops. A 24-year-old Palestinian youth from Khan Yunis refugee camp was shot dead by Israeli troops.

Palestinian deaths in the intifada have dropped from one a day in the early days of the revolt to one every three days since the beginning of this year.

Alcoholism linked to gene in US research

From Charles Bremner, New York

AMERICAN scientists have found the first hard evidence linking alcoholism to the presence of a specific gene, a discovery that appears to confirm the hereditary nature of the disease and opens the way to identifying people who are prone to suffer from it.

The findings, published yesterday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, were welcomed by recovering alcoholics and support groups as proof that the condition was founded on a hereditary, biological basis, rather than moral failing.

However, the researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles and Texas University cautioned in their article that they had not found a gene that caused alcoholism but rather a genetic trait.

The research focused on abnormalities in the d2 dopamine receptor, a structure shown to be connected to pleasure. Comparing the d2 receptors in the brain tissue of 35 deceased alcoholics and non-alcoholics, researchers found 77 per cent had a distinctive genetic abnormality. A cautious National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism called the finding promising.

According to one theory, the abnormality, known as the A1 allele, might be harder to satisfy than the standard version of the gene. Those with it might therefore feel compelled to consume more alcohol to release more dopamine.

Japanese killer turned writer faces gallows after plea fails

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

A SERIAL murderer, aged 40, who became a prize-winning novelist and studied Marx and Hegel in his prison cell, appears likely to hang after Japan's Supreme Court rejected a final appeal to quash his death sentence for crimes committed as a teenager.

During his 21 years in captivity, Norio Nagayama married and divorced a former pen pal, wrote a novel and autobiography, donated some of the proceeds of his pen to the relatives of his four victims, and threw himself into studying philosophy.

His fate has captured attention because his drawn-out appeals for clemency have turned into a test of the constitutionality of the death penalty in Japan, one of the

few developing countries still with a gallows. A government survey recently found that 66 per cent of Japanese support hanging. But Japan's policy on capital punishment has drawn criticism from around the world for years, particularly the fact that trials and appeals often extend over decades and executions are carried out in secret.

Nagayama's lawyers have tried to argue that the death penalty violates a Constitution which forbids "cruel punishments".

The unanimous decision to uphold the death sentence by the four Supreme Court judges will be completed at the end of next week, barring any procedural protests by Nagayama's lawyers, who

failed to sway the judges with their case that Nagayama was deprived and mentally unstable at the time he committed his month-long shooting spree in 1968.

In *Tears of Ignorance*, the best-selling autobiography he wrote behind bars in 1971, Nagayama blamed "capitalist society" for his downfall, saying his crimes were the product of his childhood poverty and ignorance. Nagayama, a former coffee bar employee, also wrote an award-winning novel in 1984 called *Wooden Bridge*.

In 1968 Nagayama, then aged 19, stole a pistol from an American military base near Tokyo and shot dead four people, two of them during robbery attempts.

Pesticide misuse brings harvest of death to India

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

MISUSE of pesticides by farmers who cannot read accompanying instructions is inflicting death and deformity in India.

The death toll after peasants dined on delicacies at a wedding feast in the northern village of Rajpura rose to 150 yesterday - all victims, it now transpires, of pesticides.

Farmers in India lavish their crops with chemicals on the simple assumption that two doses must be twice as good as one. By their ignorance they inflict horrible deaths and terrible deformities on countless numbers of people.

The Uttar Pradesh village of Rajpura, grimy and poor, has suffered a tragedy that is awesome even by the standards of Indian tragedies,

which are greater than most places because of sheer numbers.

The deaths were particularly agonizing, and by a perverse coincidence most local doctors happened to be locked up in jail at the time for mounting an illegal strike.

They were released several hours after the first screaming victim burst through the doors of the local hospital, which had been virtually closed by the strike. By the time the doctors arrived it was too late to help them; besides, the hospital was ill-equipped to cope. Many more people are still dying, and the final toll may well pass 200.

The villagers of Rajpura produced the wedding fare from flour that had been made from wheat newly doused in pesticides. Indian farmers are told never to spray wheat crops in the week before harvesting, but

the guidance is widely ignored. It has been estimated that half the cultivated land of India is sprayed regularly with a variety of chemicals.

India is the biggest manufacturer and consumer of pesticides in South Asia, with 350 companies producing 131 varieties. A government-owned company, Hindustan Insecticides, holds a monopoly on DDT production.

The Rajpura tragedy has highlighted the dangers of placing deadly pesticides in the hands of illiterate farmers who know nothing about the misery they inflict on people or the ravages they impose on the land.

There are those who argue that an illiterate country like India should produce and distribute only the most benign pest control products, but too many powerful interests

control the chemical industry for that to happen.

Chemicals that the West has long since banned are commonplace in India: DDT, in particular, is in widespread use. It is sprayed liberally by almost every state government to control mosquitoes, but DDT-resistant insects are now flourishing and malaria is making a stunning comeback.

Every fruit and vegetable trader knows how to lace cauliflowers with chemicals that make them white; and he is well aware that dipping green vegetables in copper sulphate makes them greener.

The tragedy of Rajpura was followed by news yesterday of another food disaster, this time affecting nearly 300 children in Maharashtra who had sampled a traditional pistachio ice cream called

kulfi. At least 100 young people are gravely ill in hospital near the town of Jalgaon. They had bought the ice cream from a street trader while marching to the small town of Sakri to pay homage to a local goddess. The cause will probably turn out to be chemical-laced water.

Moreover, it has been revealed that for two years the Indian Government has allowed soft-drink manufacturers to use a known cancer-causing agent called BVO in nearly all the nation's mass-selling soda drinks with household names like Limca and Campa Orange.

In 1988 manufacturers were given two years to eliminate the substance or withdraw their products from the market. That deadline passed a few days ago and nothing has happened. There is every chance that nothing ever will.

Ordeal ends for child hostage



JUBILATION showing on the faces of parents and child as Patricia Tacchella, aged eight, is returned to her home near Verona, Italy, after being held hostage for 78 days.

In the same clothes she was wearing when she was kidnapped while on her way to buy sweets, Patricia was reunited with her parents on Tuesday as friends

and well-wishers thronged the streets around the Tacchella home in Stallavena.

Earlier, the GHS special police, equivalent to the SAS, raided a villa near Genoa, freeing Patricia and arresting three of her captors. Two alleged accomplices were arrested in Turin. Patricia's father, Signor Imerio Tacchella, who owns the Carrera Jesus casual

wear company with sales of £300 million a year, and also controls the Fiorucci fashion house, said he considered himself "a very, very lucky man".

The kidnapers had demanded a £10 million ransom, but the authorities had frozen the Tacchella family assets in a new policy to stamp out kidnapping.

Kurdish 'timebomb' explodes as Turkey clamps down on rebels

From Christopher Walker, Nusaybin, Turkey

AMONG the sullen, determined and burning resentful Kurdish customers of the Seven Brothers coffee shop in Nusaybin, a town on the border with Syria, the whispered conversation centred on only one word - the *intifada*.

The sudden transformation of the six-year-old guerrilla war against the Turks for an independent state of Kurdistan into a national uprising, along the lines of that being waged by the Palestinians against the Israelis, has injected new life into the struggle and prompted a fierce Turkish clampdown.

The unpredicted change came last month when teenagers in headscarves and stone-throwing local women took up the fight with the security forces after shooting incidents with crowds. Then the shutters banged down on tens of thousands of shops in organized protest strikes in a mirror-image of the campaign that has become a way of life in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If the Government continues to deny us rights and democracy, then all our guns will be out and our women and children will be on the streets night and day," said one customer of the coffee shop who refused to give even his first name for fear of reprisals.

"What have we got to lose? Look around this room, there is probably not one man here with a proper job."

The wooden ceiling of the paraffin-lit cafe was crudely painted red, yellow and green, the colours of the banned Kurdish flag, an inspired piece of interior decor which recently earned the owner a severe beating in Turkish custody.

But the colours had remained, as had his readiness to voice angry complaints about the Government's refusal to allow Turkey's 10 million Kurds to use Kurdish names, to play Kurdish music, read Kurdish papers or even to enjoy recognition as a national minority.

They are known instead as "mountain Turks" although many do not speak Turkish and have now begun rallying

in ever greater numbers behind the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which launched its bloody campaign against "feudalism and colonialism" in 1984.

Many of its fighters are trained in camps in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and their charismatic leader, Mr Abdallah Akalan (known as "Apo"), lives under Syrian protection in Damascus. But Turkey's recent temporary diversion for its own purposes of the waters of the Euphrates river has reduced the willingness of the Syrians to co-operate against the guerrilla group.

Since the decree, a number of the publishing houses in Istanbul were visited by police and so far the contracts to print 18 periodicals deemed in the past to have shown some sympathy to the Kurds have been cancelled.

Condemning the new measures as undemocratic and a violation of human rights, Mr Suleyman Demirel, leader of the conservative True Path Party, said: "If this is not censorship, what is? Our citizens will have to get to know the truth from the BBC or other foreign media. Such harsh measures were not even imposed in wartime."

Outside the dingy coffee house, the Turkish army lorry patrolling menacingly with a machine gun mounted on the rear and the tangible feeling of repression and hatred were reminders that the melting of the snows had seen the mounting of yet another PKK spring offensive. But this year in the battle for control of a chunk of land half the size of Italy things have been different: 55 people were killed last month compared with only 16 in the first three months of 1989.

The 1990 death toll of civilians, guerrillas and soldiers is fast approaching 100, with hardly a day passing without an armed skirmish or an ambush. In one gun battle, 34 people were killed, 15 of them believed to have been members of the security forces. PKK gunmen have been moving down from the mountains closer to the 18 Kurdish-dominated towns and have singled out state employees as targets.

In the worst clash so far this year, 36 people were killed in Hakkari province, 21 of them guerrillas and several soldiers. On Monday, in Martin, a town 15 miles north of here, which houses an important Nato radar base, three passengers in a minibus were killed and four others critically wounded by a booby-trapped parcel handed to the unsuspecting driver for delivery in a nearby village.

Because Turkish reporting of the war has been cut to the minimum and is so patently biased, Kurds are now able to shrug off reports of such attacks against unarmed civilians as unwarranted.

The Mayor of Nusaybin, Mr Muslim Yildirim, a former teacher, was one of the only residents prepared to place his clearly identifiable criticism against the Turkish Government's handling of the Kurdish problem on the record.

"We have got to appeal to the world for help and it is people like me that have to do it," he said.

He added: "This struggle is a timebomb which has been ticking now for six years and, all at once, the people of the region are waking up. If we are going to be a part of Turkey, we must be given our full rights and not be treated any longer like second-class citizens."

Mr BARNEY Frank, the homosexual at the centre of last year's most sordid Capitol Hill sex scandal, is to seek a sixth term as a Congressman from Massachusetts, he announced this week.

He has raised \$91,000 (£55,500) since January, giving him a campaign fund of some \$260,000, and is optimistic of success, apparently unabashed by the fact that his astonishing behaviour is still being investigated by the powerful House ethics committee.

Barely seven months ago the *Washington Times* revealed that Mr Frank had had a long-standing affair with Mr Stephen Gobie, a male prostitute he hired as an aide but who then ran a "call boy" ring from Mr Frank's apartment.

"My sense is that none of (the voters) thinks I deserve a Nobel Prize for judgement," Mr Frank said on Tuesday. But he added: "I don't think my ability to fight for the things I care about has been damaged."

US Congressmen shrug off scandal

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

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Mr Frank's determination to stand again puts him among a select group of elected representatives, which also includes Mr Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, and two other US Congressmen, Mr Gus Savage and Mr Donald "Buz" Lukens, who have all allegedly been caught red-handed in serious misconduct involving sex or illegal drugs.

Not one of them, however, considers that his behaviour should disqualify him from public office. Indeed, all four have high hopes of re-election unless, in the case of Mr Barry and Mr Lukens, they are barred from standing by court convictions.

This not only says something about the sheer gall of American politicians, it exposes the abysmally low expectations the American voter has of his elected representatives.

It also testifies to the wretchedness of an electoral system which gives an incumbent an almost insurmountable, in-built advantage over any challenger.

Pretoria remains hopeful of ANC accord

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

CONFLICTING policy statements by President de Klerk of South Africa, and Mr Nelson Mandela, the deputy chairman of the African National Congress, presage tough exchanges when they begin formal peace talks early next month, but senior Cabinet ministers remain optimistic of progress towards broader negotiations on constitutional reforms.

With Mr Mandela calling for continued pressure on Pretoria, and Mr de Klerk bluntly warning the ANC to tone down its rhetoric, the atmosphere seems hardly conducive to compromise.

The President's firm rejection of black majority rule may reassure anxious whites, but it is bound to increase militant blacks who will settle for nothing less.

Mr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister for Constitutional Development and the chief government negotiator, believes, however, that full-scale negotiations may begin before the end of the year and that a new political system could be introduced within two years.

Speaking in Washington, Mr Viljoen appeared to back his optimism on a high personal regard for Mr Mandela, whom he described as "impressive" and "firmly committed to peaceful solutions. But, he added, there was no doubt that the ANC leader was under heavy pressure from young activists who did not share his enthusiasm for a negotiated settlement.

Confrontational politics and related violence sweeping black communities will be the principal issues at the preliminary three-day meeting between the Government and the ANC beginning in Cape Town on May 2.

Government sources, meanwhile, are not unduly concerned by the flexing of political muscles, and do not share the view that this represents a hardening of attitudes. "Given the very difficult background against which the exercise is taking place, what is happening now is to be expected," one source said.

"We believe there is room for manoeuvre on all sides, since the imperatives for compromise are greater than anything else. The biggest problem is the persistent violence, which is having a profoundly negative effect," the source added.

The ANC is under increasing pressure to renounce its military strategy, even from its sympathizers. The Rev Allan Boesak, the president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a prominent anti-apartheid activist, has joined the peace lobby by urging the ANC to take a "moral initiative" by forswearing violence.

By rejecting violence, the ANC would place a moral obligation on the security forces to follow suit, he said.

While Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela prepare to talk peace, conflict is deepening between the ANC and the conservative Inkatha movement led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, who is agitating to secure his place at the negotiating table.

The South African Youth Congress, announcing its intention yesterday to dissolve and merge with the ANC Youth League, accused Chief Buthelezi of sending Inkatha members to Israel for military training, claiming to have videotaped "evidence" to support its claim.

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Shakespeare on the shelf

Bernard Richards

Shakespeare's birthday next week will be celebrated with due reverence, but do his works genuinely hold the attention of the modern audience? I suspect they are watched mainly with boredom, irritation, puzzlement, anxiety or indifference, rather than pleasure, except at those moments when a musical routine or a bit of farcical "business" is injected. Directors have been revamping his plays to make them acceptable to audiences more readily at home with *Dallas* or *Spitting Image*.

The phenomenon is not new. Shakespeare has often been adapted, but in the past the changes were more readily admitted: today directors like to pretend they give the essence of Shakespeare, and their innovations are matters of production style.

Without wishing vigorously to applaud attempts to make him palatable to ill-educated and inattentive audiences, the fact has to be faced that he does pose problems. All of the plays contain obscure words, and even more treacherous are words which sound familiar but now have completely different meanings.

Many parts of his plays puzzle audiences: not only the notorious linguistic cruces and the arcane allusions, but the parts that depend on knowledge of local customs. Think of the special knowledge about wedding arrangements one needs to make much headway with *Measure for Measure*, or the medieval attitudes to marriage that make *The Taming of the Shrew* so intractable. Many people approaching Shakespeare get most excitement from seeing their own feelings about life confirmed. Shakespeare does make timeless statements, but most of what he expresses is in relation to local conditions.

The trouble with treating Shakespeare as if he were a contemporary of ours is that it must involve productions in anomalies and even incoherencies, especially if no cutting or rewriting takes place. Modern-dress productions provide many examples. Adrian Noble's updated *Comedy of Errors* in 1983 was fast-moving and engaging, but although the policeman was a Keystone Cop in blue, the lines referring to his "buff" uniform remained. The RSC *Merry Wives*, with its mock-Tudor and hairdriers, had a Falstaff looking something like Jimmy Edwards in plus-fours, yet absurdly, instead of calling for a gun and tonic, as he should have done, he went on asking for the Shrew.

Michael Bogdanov's notorious 1978 *Taming of the Shrew* provided Petruchio with a loud motorbike. Fair enough (well, fair enough with massive reservations), but what a total nonsense it was to retain the speech about his arrival at church on a broken-down horse. That speech should

either have been dropped or rewritten to describe a clapped-out motorbike with defective silencer. However, not many producers have the courage to rewrite, not merely because even the stupid ones realize they are not up to Shakespeare's standard, but because rewriting emphasizes with startling intensity that they are not giving us Shakespeare.

The trouble with updating is that usually it takes place in a cultural void, for example in an RSC *Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the point when Hippolyta is reminding about her earlier hunting days: "I was with Hercules and Cadmus once. When in a wood of Crete they bay'd the bear With hounds of Sparta." It is extraordinarily beautiful and resonant poetry, but it was spoken by a woman wearing a cocktail dress straight out of a Noel Coward play. How could such a figure have had one foot in the mythological world of Hercules and Cadmus? The visual signals were all wrong.

These absurd and baseless fantasies can never compete for audience attention with a good modern comedy that is coherent and closely observed in its language and social landscape. Life, of a kind, is injected in modernization, but not true vitality.

Producing with antiquarian zeal may be a better course. It is curious that there has not been a full-blown theatrical equivalent of the revival of ancient music. That movement has had its obligatory lunacy, but on the whole its case has been made and it has achieved some spectacular successes. There is room for an equivalent movement in the theatre, which is not to say that antiquarian performances should have a monopoly. For instance, I have never seen *The Tempest* produced as an ambitious manager might have done in the early 17th century, which surely could be very exciting.

I have never seen a production in which boy actors act alongside adults; surely the BBC could have shown some boldness and enterprise by trying it at least once. I have never seen a candle-lit production of a play from this period, but friends tell me that the effect is electrifying, and not only on the local fire-officer.

It is, I think, preferable to play down Shakespeare's universality rather than exaggerate it; he is, after all, only spasmodically universal, and then not necessarily at his most interesting. We should desanctify Shakespeare, at least temporarily, and cease to regard him both as one of our contemporaries and as a "timeless monument". We should accept that he is not readily intelligible, especially in our desecrated world. And then we might stand a chance of breathing fresh life into him. The author is a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

CLEMENT FREUD

It is the most English of scenes: the stage of lush green swaths of turf punctuated by well constructed brushwood fences. Around us, performing a gentle fandango, are mounted huntsmen wearing pink coats, unlikely-looking amateur jockeys in multi-coloured racing silks, men dressed in jodhpurs, rainproof jackets, rat-catcher's hats; women in blue tribbles, the trendy female headgear of 1990.

In the car park (admission £10), a couple of thousand vehicles are parked in immaculate lines supervised by hard men in bowler hats and the habit of command. The car boots are open, have spilt on to the grass assorted camp chairs and tables; someone unscrews a Thermos and produces hot sausages. Another contains oxtail soup laced with sherry; there is sloe gin and whisky, corned beef sandwiches and scotch eggs, the last of the simnel cake, quiche and pâté, much supermarket wine in two-litre cartons and "Goodness isn't that Jeremy with the Dunstan woman, over there by the girl with the blue felt hat?" "Which one? They're all wearing blue felt hats." Gossip thrives, OK.

Stroll around the marquees and you discover the tradesmen: a retailer of Range Rovers and BMWs creating the impression that the market in used cars starts at £24,355. Here a saddler, there a gent's outfitter specializing in leisurewear (such as blue tribbles). The inevitable "green" couple who sell baked potatoes from a cast-iron mobile oven. An old bloke has put on a boater expressly to carve steaming joints of mahogany-coloured roast beef, slices of which his wife, wearing surgical gloves, places inside soft brown baps, price £1.95, mustard or horseradish? Two sisters sell home-made fudge and cakes... but the cakes were all sold before the first race.

There is a huge beer tent bulging with youths lightly doused in best bitter and every few minutes the public address system, manned by a frustrated newsreader, announces the discovery of yet another boy called Nigel who is being held in the secretary's tent awaiting collection. "Nigel", says the

announcer, "is wearing blue trousers and a red windcheater", possibly in case dad remembers the clothes even if he has forgotten the name.

Many children are mislaid; the announcer waits until he has a clutch and then lists all their names and descriptions. I believe people go to point-to-points expressly to dispose of their children, then leg it out of the country; it surprises me the clerks of courses still let them in, let alone let them in for free.

Within this atmosphere of overall gentility interspersed only by the occasional trader, there is a faction of hard-headed businessmen who arrive early on the scene bearing satchels inscribed Honest Fred, Trust Harry, and Alf Always Pays: the bookmakers, who consider Easter Monday to be their benefit, their flag day; they actually wanted to rename Easter Monday The Feast of St Ladbroke - though to be fair, it is not the market leaders but the minnows of the profession whose trade this day is fruitful and multiplies and does not bear too close investigation.

On a normal racing day, there might be two or three meetings attracting perhaps 8,000 people. On Monday there were five meetings on the flat, 12 under National Hunt rules and a dozen point-to-points; the total crowd approached 200,000, of whom some 80 per cent are what nice people term "innocent" or "inexperienced" and bookmakers call "mugs". Why is it that children are taught mathematics at great inconvenience but in later life are unable to determine whether 5-4 is a better price than 11-8? (It is not.)

What is lacking in people who have the competitive spirit to back one horse to run faster than the others, yet place their bet with a bookmaker who is showing the selection at even money when the man on the adjoining pitch is offering 6-4?

I won on the fifth race, backing the outsider of four at 2-1. As for the bookmakers, they that outlived this day and came safe home (which would have taken a very long time if the M25 was involved) shall count their notes and rub their hands in glee and say this foot I got on the bank holiday.

John Walden urges Britain to restore confidence by standing up to China

Stop kowtowing over Hong Kong

The Government claims that by giving British passports to 250,000 people in Hong Kong, it will restore the confidence of all six million. As MPs prepare to do battle on the issue today, they should consider why Mrs Thatcher's once universally acclaimed policy on the future of Hong Kong is in tatters.

Before Parliament authorized the Government to sign the Joint Declaration with China in December 1984, ministers gave repeated assurances that the agreement was acceptable to the people of Hong Kong and would guarantee them a secure future under Chinese sovereignty. They further gave the impression that before transfer of sovereignty in 1997, Britain would devolve the power to manage the internal affairs of the colony to a representative government elected by the Hong Kong people. Parliament was told that China agreed to this, and China itself announced publicly that after 1997, "Hong Kong people would rule Hong Kong" with "a high degree of autonomy".

It was argued that once the people of Hong Kong had been

given a representative government, they would be able to resist any attempt by Peking to impose Chinese-style rule. In such ways, Parliament's reservations about placing millions of British subjects under the control of a totalitarian regime with a bad record on human rights were allayed.

Writing in *The Times* on April 15 last year, I explained how within a year of Parliament's endorsement of the agreement, Foreign Office officials had secretly agreed to China's demand that Britain slow down its plans for democratic reform.

The collapse of confidence in the future of Hong Kong was precipitated not by the tragic events in Tiananmen Square in June 1989, but by Britain's failure to stand up to China in November 1988 and to secure the political safeguards written into the Joint Declaration. The brain drain from Hong Kong was already a serious problem when the Foreign Affairs Committee visited the colony in March last year. Tiananmen Square then injected a new element of panic.

The passport package was one

consequence of that panic, but granting sanctuary in Britain to 250,000 Hong Kong citizens is unlikely to keep people in the colony up to and beyond 1997. It will not reassure those denied sanctuary and will not stop the hemorrhage of talent that is threatening to cripple the commercial and administrative infrastructure which has helped to make Hong Kong so prosperous and stable in the past and which could be so beneficial to China in the future.

Above all, it does not discharge Britain's moral responsibilities to the people of its last and most successful colonial dependency.

At best, some holders of the new passports will stay for the time being, and 50,000 families will be spared the miseries already suffered by all those who have disrupted their careers and broken up their families to earn the right to live in Canada, the US or Australia.

Opponents of the passport Bill will today advance all these reasons and more to persuade Parliament to reject it, and they will cap them by arguing that it would

be folly for the Government to force through a nationally unpopular measure that is also strongly opposed by China. But China's opposition is the best reason for the Government to persevere with it, for only by convincing the people of Hong Kong that it is prepared to stand up to China in defending their civil and political rights can the British government persuade them to remain in Hong Kong.

If Parliament approves the Bill, it will have taken the first step in a new initiative to see that the Joint Declaration is implemented in a way that reflects Parliament's 1984 intentions rather than China's demands. And for Britain there is more to this than ensuring that the British Empire does not end with a pitiful whimper.

Prince Charles put the point well in an address to the University of Alberta in 1983, when he said that 40 years previously, thousands had sacrificed their lives to defend basic freedoms which we consider our natural right. "If they hadn't done so," he continued, "and if an excuse had been found to opt out of that

defence or to compromise in some way over the issue, there is no saying how great a shadow would have fallen across the world. There is no doubt that countless people whose freedoms are crushed under the weight of a seemingly limitless oppression look towards countries like ours to provide some kind of flickering light of freedom amongst the total darkness that surrounds them."

The people of Hong Kong see a great shadow hanging over their future, and they look to the British to remove it. It will be a shameful and hypocritical disavowal of Britain's public posture on human rights if Parliament permits the Government to opt out of or compromise over those provisions in the Joint Declaration that were included to protect the people of Hong Kong from possible oppression. For in its present mood of brooding and defiant malevolence, China looks likely to visit just such oppression upon those in Hong Kong who have been trying to claim their democratic rights. The author was formerly Director of Home Affairs in the Hong Kong government.

Bernard Levin says doctors should face the moral questions of preserving patients for spare parts

I must return yet again to the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint. A recent visit to the theme concerned the "breakthrough" in transplant surgery, by which a pig's kidney was transplanted into a human being. Whatever next, I murmured in the course of a couple of thousand words, but the trouble with that question, I have found by long experience, is that my imagination is not lurid enough to make a useful guess, could I - could you - have thought that a Dutch doctor would have been reported to the equivalent of the BMA because he failed to practise euthanasia on one of his patients who had asked for it?

For those reading me today who have not followed my discovery and examination of the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint, let me define it. It is the belief that, because some action or attitude is universally considered abhorrent, it will always remain so; the fallacy lies in what happens when the standpoint from which that belief derives is altered. The view changes: from the new standpoint it is possible to believe that what was once unthinkable can now be thought; all too often, what can be thought is thought, and shortly afterwards what is thought is put into practice.

Some years ago, a Bill was introduced into Parliament; the purpose was to provide a special card which would indicate that, if the holder was fatally injured, his or her organs were to be made available for transplant. I said then that in time, the onus in the legislation would be reversed, so that the organs could be used unless the owner of them bore a card specifically forbidding his or her innards to be used for such a purpose. I was roundly hooted for my prophecy; well, that day comes ever closer. But stop reading for a moment, and answer a question with as much exactitude as your memory, or that of those around you, can provide.

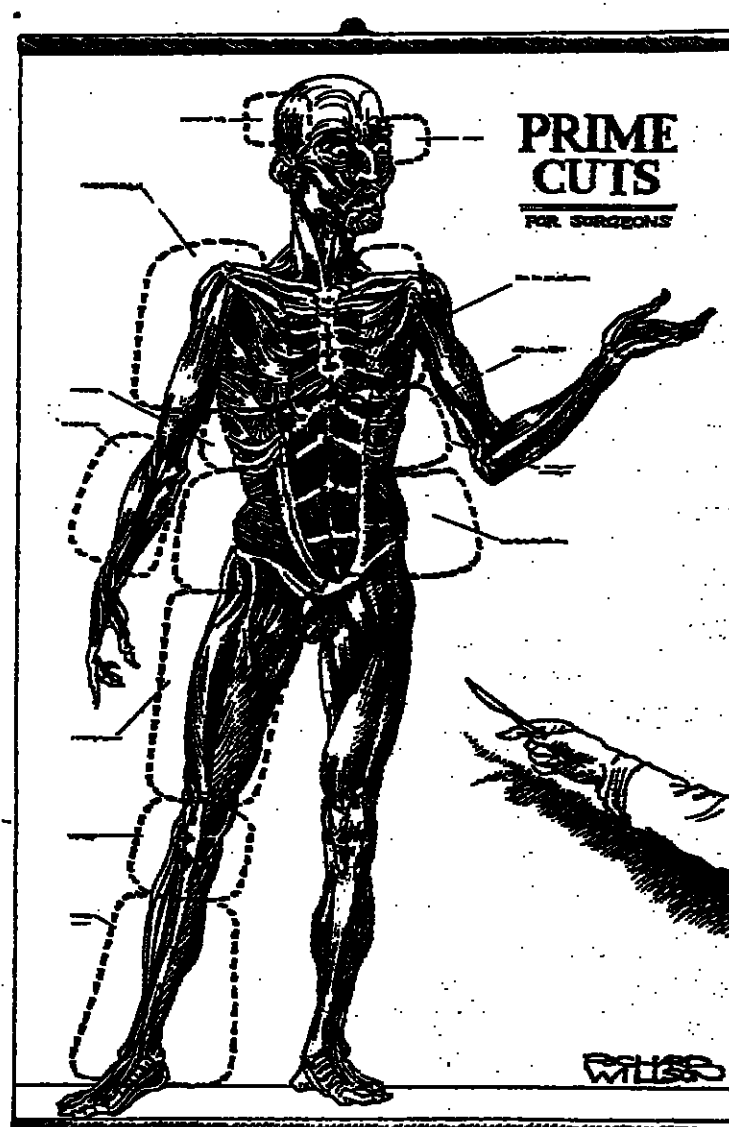
Here is the question. How long ago would you have dismissed as

absurd, repellent and obviously untrue, a claim that in this country's hospitals doctors have taken to keeping dying patients, with no hope of recovery, on artificial life-support machines, and making withdrawals from these living but moribund organs-banks when a patient who needs a replacement lung, say, or heart, is ready to receive it?

Yet I tell you that that is happening now, and the doctors do not deny it. Indeed, there was an exquisite comment, recorded in *The Sunday Times*, from the president of the British Transplantation Society, Dr Douglas Briggs: "It is not the sort of thing we go public on," he said, "but I don't feel we should cover it up in any way." Another medical enthusiast for the practice said that it "provided a new pool of donors"; I must repeat, though I have no great hope of getting it into the heads of more than half a dozen people, the fact that a body on a ventilator is not a donor, because a donor is one who gives, not one who is taken from. (That particular linguistic perversion has always struck me as significant; if doctors have to pretend that an organ was given to them, rather than removed from a patient incapable of giving permission, it can only mean that they are not nearly as certain of their rectitude as they would like to be thought.)

It gets worse. Referring to the patients who provide the organ-bank, one of the doctors said: "Previously, these patients were simply cared for and kept comfortable until they died. Instead, we are approaching the relatives of such patients to tell them that, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do for them and to ask them to consider the possibility of organ donation for when their relative stops breathing."

Roughly when and exactly why did the doctors decide that their previous custom - "... these patients were simply cared for and kept comfortable until they died" - should be abandoned? I do not suppose that the doctors enjoy



asking for the parts of somebody's loved ones, and I am sure they make their requests tactfully and with sympathy; nevertheless, the argument that someone else can benefit from the organs of a relative who will never again have a use for them gives a powerful - I think too powerful - tilt to the feelings of those who are soon to be bereaved.

At this point, I fear that many people, not just the doctors engaged in the organ-bank system, are saying that they cannot understand what I am talking about. If there are proper safeguards (and I have no doubt that there are) to ensure that only those who have no possibility of recovery are used as repositories of spare parts, and

that the relatives are willing, what possible objection can there be?

There are three. In my previous comment, on the matter of the pig's kidneys in human beings (did they, incidentally, ask permission of the pig's relatives?), I discussed the opportunity-cost: how many less glamorous treatments - the familiar hip operation, or the one for cataract, or for hernia or prostate - could be done dozens or hundreds of times for what one heart transplant costs in medical equipment, personnel, resources, time, skill and attention? I never got an answer, and do not expect one now; but I am quite sure that if the transplant craze had never taken hold, there would now be a massive credit balance of pain

relieved, mobility restored, sight saved and research pursued.

The second objection is that the practice reinforces, rather than (as it should do) corrects, one of the most extraordinary and distorting notions of our time: the widespread belief that it is possible to live for ever, and certainly that if it is not possible it should be made so at once, by Act of Parliament.

I sometimes think that the *timor mortis* of today takes the form of a resentment of death, and certainly the maddest but most representative form of this attitude so far has been the grotesque phenomenon called "cryogenics": certain charlatans claim (it started, of course, in California), that they can preserve a dead body until a cure for the disease which killed the client is found, whereupon the preserved corpse will be treated with the appropriate remedy, and in no time will be sitting up and singing. I know no more pitiful example of our greatest delusion: the boast that we have shrugged off all belief outside our senses, and have created an entirely materialistic universe.

And the third objection is, of course, the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint. I do not envisage the mad scientists of fiction kidnapping perfectly healthy people to stock their organ-banks, although there is a horrid and uncomfortably memorable precedent:

Up the close and down the stair, Round the town with Burke and Harcourt, Burke the butcher, Harcourt the thief.

Knock the boy who buys the beef. But the point of the Fallacy is that until the standpoint has been altered, no one can safely predict what the view from the new one will be. Nevertheless, there is a clue. So far as I know, there is not one example of a new standpoint being less disturbing than its predecessor; the alteration invariably goes further, in the matter of actions that had previously been ruled out, towards danger.

I have no doubt that some lives will be saved by transplants from the new organ-banks. I have cast doubt on the relative cost of such projects. But there is another kind of cost, not involving money, and this kind may be leading us to a new, and by no means welcome, moral bankruptcy.

Passports for a surprise holiday

Knowing that few MPs can resist a few extra days' holiday, the whips have bought off Conservative rebels who were expected to join Norman Tebbit's Hong Kong passport revolt tonight. They have been told that a blind eye will be turned if they take an extra week's holiday and don't turn up at Westminster until next week - so abstaining in the controversial vote. This is a tactic of last resort, and illustrates the concern with which the Tory high command regards the threatened revolt. Tim Janman, MP for Thurrock and one of the rebels, confirms that the whips have been engaged in frantic activity. "If you were known to be intending to vote against the Bill, they offered an extended Easter recess. They were effectively offering an extra week's holiday from the daily chores of Westminster." However, Tebbit has employed some tricks of his own to keep the whips at bay. Eighty MPs signed a letter of protest to the Prime Minister, but she refused to read it. Tebbit declined to show the list of rebels to the whips, so leaving them unsure of whom to tempt, and with the possibility that they may have bought off some of their own supporters. We shall find out tonight how many stay away.

Curtailed down

The Royal Opera House, which yesterday announced its 1990-91 season, faces an ever-growing possibility that it will fail to find a temporary home when it closes for three years in 1994 for extensive rebuilding. The lack of existing theatres in London suitable for opera or ballet is limited. Drury Lane would do, but for *Miss Saigon's* advance bookings. A possible move to the Lyceum has also been scotched, leaving a Covent Garden search to conceive that the best hope is for a new theatre to be built with some haste. But the only two possibilities have not even got beyond the planning stage. The Entertainment Corporation, agents for the Kirov and Bolshoi ballet companies, had ambitious plans for a 3,500-seat theatre on a scruffy South Bank car park, but the site has been promised to the South Bank Board, which runs the National Theatre. The second possibility, a proposed 2,500-seat theatre near the Old Vic, is even more distant. It all sounds increasingly like an opera plot - of the soap variety.

Ideology no bar

Conflicts between party and professional loyalties were in evidence yesterday among the 70 or so barrister MPs as the Commons began debating the end of their professional closed shop. Among those most embarrassed is John Morris, Labour's shadow attorney general. He is vice-chairman of the all-party barristers' group which is leading the opposition to the proposal to give solicitors rights of access to higher courts. But from the front bench he had to voice Labour's approval of the measure. Morris denies that his party loyalty is being strained. "Provided the

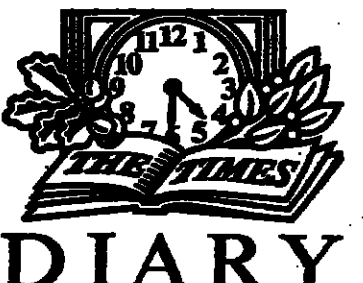
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DIARY

solicitors are properly qualified I have no objection," he says. But Tony MP Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the barristers' group, takes a quite different line. "The Bill is supposed to improve access to legal services and make them less expensive," he says. "I shall be opposing it because it will do neither. It will put the service at risk." A number of Labour barristers also oppose the proposal, proving the old adage that the true conservatives are to be found on the Labour benches. One of their number, Austin Mitchell, agrees. "We are in awe of traditional institutions," he says. "Taking on the law is far too daring for us. I just wish the Tories' Lord Chancellor was ours."

Forgotten heroes

It must be hard to feel nostalgia for a prison camp, but there will be few dry eyes around when the POW elite of the Second World War meet in London today for a Colditz reunion. Earl Haig (son of the First World War commander-in-chief), who was incarcerated in Colditz from November 1944 until being liberated by the Russians in April

1945, says that after so many years, recognition of fellow prisoners has become a problem at reunions. "Everyone looks so different that it takes until the end of the party to recognize old friends. Then I want to discuss old wounds, pleasures and memories, but it's too late. You end up regretting you can't be back in Colditz with them all."

Primrose past

Tories steeped in the "One Nation" tradition who thought the pendulum had swung back their way have suffered a setback: an acute shortage of primroses on Primrose Day, the anniversary of the death of Benjamin Disraeli. Alas, members of the Primrose League, including about 30 Tory MPs, who had hoped to be sporting buttonholes today are finding them in short supply. The early spring has meant that in most places, Disraeli's favourite flower has long since bloomed and withered.

Building bridges

Lord St John of Fawsley has something to complain about and something to crow about. He is locked in battle with planners over a proposal to build a sewage farm in the heart of the most unsport part of the Northamptonshire countryside, within spitting distance of the old rectory at Preston Capes, which has been his home for 25 years. On the credit side, he has been made an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He is somewhat surprised by the honour, for as chairman of the Fine Arts Commission he has

fought a series of battles to thwart the plans of some of RIBA's most distinguished members, including Scott, Brownrigg and Turner's hideous new BBC headquarters at White City.

The former arts minister says he is now worried that having accepted the honour, that other noted scourge of RIBA, the Prince of Wales, will never speak to him again. A spokesman for RIBA said that honorary membership was bestowed on eminent people who showed "interest in architecture and the arts and sciences connected therewith". It would be hard to think of a better description of Prince Charles. Can we take it that his membership invitation is in the post?

Costume drama

Some of the most exclusive society designers are set to link arms with the shop-keeping rebels in Chris Patten's Bath constituency who are planning a strike next week in protest at the new business rate. Daphne Gilroy, whose clients include Princess Michael of Kent, the American singer Grace Jones and actress Jerry Hall, predicts that the new rate will turn Kings Road, Chelsea, into "a boarded-up wasteland". With other trendy King's Road traders, she has formed FAIRR - Fight Against Increased Rent and Rates - and has contacted the Bath malcontents with a view to organizing a national protest. The rates on Gilroy's broom cupboard-size shop are set to rise from £7,500 to £28,000, and there is talk of fielding a "Fashion Party" candidate against Chelsea MP Nick Scott at the next election.

Nothing excuses it

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

THE nuclear lobby does not seem to have been showing its "Come to Sunny Selfish" commercials lately, but in their place over the last three weeks we have had three major documentaries about the legacy of Windscale, of which last night's BBC 1 *Inside Story* was perhaps the most chilling.

Dennis Blakeway's film, "Our Reactor is on Fire", told in straightforward, eye-witness recollection the story of what happened on October 10, 1957, a nuclear disaster that was the world's worst until Chernobyl, and one that still makes the "China Syndrome" look like a relatively minor worry.

But in the course of his filming, Blakeway discovered something still more frightening: for four years before 1957, persistent leaking of nuclear waste into the Cumbrian countryside had contaminated the whole neighbourhood, so that the "atomic milk" scare had less to do with the fire than with what had happened before it. In that sense, the fire itself was a blessing in disguise since it forced a reluctant government finally to admit the dangers and do something about them.

Windscale still stands as a monument to our ignorance: in our desperation to fool ourselves into thinking we were a great nuclear power, we allowed, as new reports indicate, the dangers of leukaemia and cancer to spread through an area which, only 30 years later is beginning to count a real cost which could add up to 100 lives.

In the meantime Selfish lives on, with authorities still able to control all information and neighbours recalling chilling stories of their children's shoes proving six times more radioactive than the highest danger levels allowed inside the plant.

It will need an Ibsen or an Arthur Miller and a latter-day *Enemy of the People* to bring home the true dramatic intensity of what is still happening in Cumbria in the name of nuclear progress, but with this trio of documentaries someone is clearly trying to tell us something — if only that Dante's *Inferno* was allowed to happen in the north of England, so that we would not go naked into some conference chamber or other.

On balance, nudity would surely have been the better option, but in the meantime Blakeway's film had all the black and white intensity of a 1950s Sunday television play, somewhere midway between a *Quatermass* *Experiment* gone horribly wrong and *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*.

The trouble is that it was all for real, and it is not easy to believe that it could not happen again: if it was possible to bury four years of nuclear contamination under the grass of Cumbria, what else are we about to discover?

The Hunt for Red October, James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket, Roger and Me, Shocker, Mountains of the Moon and Troop Beverly Hills

The plot that stays out in the cold

David Robinson

THE film that time forgot? The Hunt for Red October (PG, Empire 1) looks like it. Tom Clancy's novel was published in 1984 — a date which once symbolized a future of European history and Western dread of the Evil Empire in the East. A title disarmingly advises that the action takes place "shortly before Gorbachev came to power", but the drama has lost its impact upon audiences freed from paranoia.

There is one lucky piece of topicality: the hero, defector from Moscow, is Lithuanian. Captain Marko Ramius (Sean Connery) is put in command of the latest Soviet secret weapon, a nuclear submarine capable of sneaking to the very edges of the shores of America to deliver a decisive strike.

It is soon established that the enigmatic Ramius and his officers propose to defect. At the same time it turns out that the vessel is not so undetectable to the Americans as was thought. Thus, the drama is poised, as the submarine steers its predictable course between the Soviet navy, determined to destroy the vessel rather than let it fall into American hands, and the Americans, determined to avert what could be a nuclear strike.

Despite the nuclear weapons and electronic gadgetry it all seems somehow very archaic, looking back to *Run Silent, Run Deep* and *Ice Station Zebra*. Whenever scriptwriters are stuck in confined spaces like submarines they become excessively wordy, with dialogue that explains both plot and naval strategy at tiresome length.

So *The Hunt for Red October* is stretched to a wearisome two-and-a-quarter hours, without its director John McTiernan offering any compensatory visual style. Sean Connery is a consolation: here he is frosty-bearded, taciturn, mysterious and possessed of some smart tricks to evade homing torpedoes.

Exceptionally, two thrilling American documentaries reach theatrical screens this week.

Bob Rafelson once said: "I have been attracted to making just any movie." *Mountains of the Moon* (15, Odeon Leicester Square) is far from being run of the mill — how many other films concern Burton and Speke, Victorian explorers of the Nile's source? — yet it seems a strangely impersonal pile of celluloid to surface from the director of *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens*.

Rafelson earned his high reputation in the early 1970s with quirky mosaics of Americana, deftly attuned to people and places, but here his individual territory has been abandoned for the big historical epic. Burton's expedition marches in pretty

silhouette against an orange sky; a carrot-topped clown is introduced to Burton as "one of your admirers, Algernon Swinburne", a native attack whips up a deafening soundtrack stew of swordplay, gunfire, fluted music, grunts and snarling extras. We might almost be watching *Five Easy Pieces*.

Rafelson, to be fair, is truly interested in the story he is telling. An intrepid traveller himself, he identifies closely with Richard Burton, the extravagantly curious Victorian who tackled his Nile explorations in between learning

40 languages, becoming an expert swordsman, and translating *The Perfumed Garden*. Where Burton befriends the African tribes and marvels at the wonders en route, his companion John Hanning Speke, a far colder fish, treats the natives abruptly and marches ahead, questing after personal glory. Upon sighting — and naming — Lake Victoria, Speke rushes to claim the sole discovery of the Nile's source without proper proof. Debates and squabbles rack the Royal Geographical Society, and their friendship dies.

Comparatively fresh faces head the cast. Irish-born Patrick Bergin is strapping enough for Burton; while Iain Glen's Speke conveys the necessary mix of naivety and self-interest. Yet neither cuts the deep impression their characters deserve; Rafelson's lumbering epic caravan keeps riding over them.

Exterior African scenes are annoyingly muddy in colour. But the film scores highly in the English interiors, which are choked with gloomy furnishings, mutton-chop whiskers, and general Victorian fug.

Exploring the wilder African cliché

Here we find Fiona Shaw, bright as a button as Burton's affianced; Peter Vaughan in a smoking cap, cutting capers; Bernard Hill as Livingstone, stripping down to display his wounds. Such characters add some of Rafelson's old spice to the history lesson, though nothing can erase the feeling of an off-beat project that wandered too close to the conventional mainstream.

The Odeon Mezzanine, a nest of five shoebox cinemas which has sprung up next to the Odeon Leicester Square, opens for business with *Troop Beverly Hills*

Christmas message to his staff, the Flint sheriff's officer hurries through the last evictions before his holiday, and Pat Boone emotionally croons, "I am proud to be an American". One has a strong sense of a time out of joint.

In a different way, one feels the same in *Shocker* (18, Cannon Fenton Street), a reworking of the current preoccupation with horror films, slasher murders, premonitory dreams, resurrection, the transmission of evil from body to body. Even if most of this is well-worn, the director, Wes Craven, shows some touch of invention in his use of video techniques and the idea of characters entering the world behind the television screen.

(PG), a foolish comedy ribbing the suburb's taste for conspicuous consumption. Brittle comedienne Shelley Long plays a daffy housewife determined to prove her worth by taking charge of the local Wilderness Girls troop; their activities include jewellery appraisal and describing the autumn fashions to the blind.

Everyone bends over backwards to be madcap — not least the costume designer, Theadora Van Runkle, who clothes the star in 47 absurdly frivolous concoctions. A pity the writers were unable to think of just as many jokes to match.

Geoff Brown

ANGEL DUST (Palace, 15): Cop on the skids gets dangerously involved with a murderous wife: conventional material, but the imaginative direction of a new French talent, Edouard Girel, gives the film class. 1988.

BULL DURHAM (Virgin, 18): Quirky cocktail of sex, Americana and baseball from writer-director Ron Shelton, with Kevin Costner as the veteran catcher hired to slap a losing team into shape. Tim Robbins shows his mettle as a cocky, dim-witted pitcher. 1989.

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL (MGM/UA, PG): Cinema's first wrestle with Alan Ayckbourn. Michael Winner's direction could have been subtler, though the cast — led by Jeremy Irons as the newcomer causing ructions among an amateur theatre group — polish off their material with ease. 1989.

DOCTOR FAUSTUS (Telestar, PG): Marlowe's play lumpy filmed in 1967, during a fleeting marriage between Oxford University, acting for glamour, and Richard Burton acting for respectability.

ANOTHER WOMAN (Virgin, PG): Suave, multi-layered character drama from Woody Allen, with Gene Rowlands as a middle-aged academic evaluating her life. Mostly serious, though with sly humour around the edges. 1989.

K-9 (CIC, 15): Ragged mixture of comedy and action, with James Belushi as a bumptious cop paired on a drugs case with a super-intelligent dog. 1989.

WICKED STEPMOTHER (MGM/UA, PG): Scratchy potboiler from B-movie master Larry Cohen, featuring Betty Davis's last performance, as a witch. 1989.

A triumph of spiritual daring

WE WERE in the darkening nave for three hours, which gave plenty of opportunity for reflection about sacred art, about the Asiatic voluptuousness of Eastern chant, about the splendid noise that brass instruments, bells and tam-tams can make in church; acoustics about the blame attachable to Pontius Pilate, about the way the pain of sitting spreads from the buttock in a line along the lower thigh, about the achievability of an icon-like simplicity and decisiveness in the late 20th century, but most of all about the colossal daring of John Tavener.

The occasion was the first performance of his *Resurrection*, a telling of the story of Christ from the Last Supper to Easter morning, set out in seven great panels for soloists, chorals and small instrumental groupings. And the daring was not just a matter of

CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

Resurrection

Glasgow Cathedral

scale; it was a spiritual daring, for either the work is a triumphant affirmation of faith or else it is a huge sham. Which? I do not know.

One could argue that the domain of the sacred embraces the vulgar, just as it embraces the sweet, the pretty, and the grandiose, all of which qualities *Resurrection* has in abundance, along with occasional inventions that claim an aesthetic as well as a religious justification.

They include the turmoil of brass at the Betrayal, the nimbus of low basses with trumpets and

stings around the voice of Christ, the flamboyantly melismatic lines for a tenor soloist in the Crucifixion liturgy and also later for Christ singing the Last Words. But these things rather pale in the light of Tavener's boldness in wanting to create a holy mystery out of repeated melodic formulae and shock tactics.

The wonder of the evening was further enhanced by the high standard of vocal performance under the composer's cousin, Alan Tavener, conducting his own excellent Cappella Nova. Stephen Richardson was the admirable Christ, solid and rich in the Russian style clearly expected. There were wonderful things, too, from Lorna Anderson as Mary, Simon Gay as the counter-tenor Judas, Robert Horn as the high tenor Peter, and Angus Smith as the Evangelist.

Roger Marsh's *Point to Point* did much the same thing, though in this instance the boundaries of his piece are set by a single note.

There were also three works for smaller forces. Catherine Playgers's *Conversation Piece*, originally for oboe and tape but transcribed effectively for this performance for two oboes (Playgers and David Wilson), took a couple of simple ideas and mesmerizingly exploited co-ordinated and uncoordinated echoes.

Playgers also played Julia Uher's *A Reed in the Wind*, a cycle of oboe pieces depicting the great winds of the world, which had fewer contrasts than its title suggests; and Alexander Goehr's *Paraphrase on Il Combattimento di Taurini* and *Clarinada*, given by the clarinetist Mark Trombani, seemed but a pale reflection of the original.

Stephen Pettitt

NWO/Singer

Purcell Room

Similarly, Malcolm Singer's *Modular City*, complete with screaming piccolo, was all about immediate impact. With a structure based on inequality, it is also fiendish to play.

By contrast, three other works encouraged us to listen to the nature of sound itself. Ho Wai-On's new work, *Inter-Wind*, explored the sonorities possible with a palette of selected intervals, while Michael Christie's eloquent, static *Windchanges* took as its point of departure and return the sound of breath, which slowly develops into pitched timbres, an old idea, but an effective one.

SOMETHING about the sound of a mixed wind ensemble, around 10-strong, is fundamentally reassuring. It has to do with its sustained quality and with sheer volume, which sometimes verged on the painful in this recital by the New Wind Orchestra. The combination brought out the extrovert in three of the six living composers represented on Tuesday.

The notes about David Sutton Anderson's *Nachzeit*, for instance, brazenly stated that the piece is "all-purpose 'disaster' music". Accordingly, it was over-full of clichés of melody and texture of the kind one might expect to hear in the more thrilling episodes of a Hitchcock film.

David Blake's *Cassation* was also less than profound, and pretended nothing else, though it is written with skill and relish for Latin-American dance rhythms.

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HEALTH

A day at the sickening seaside

Just when you thought it might be safer to go back into the water, doctors are warning of new dangers lurking off the beaches. Liz Gill reports on the contamination of our seas

Sea bathing has been considered a tonic for body and mind ever since the Prince Regent first took the plunge at Brighton. Two hundred years on, however, many of our coastal waters are so polluted that holiday-makers frequently find it healthier to stay on the shore.

This week the medical magazine *General Practitioner* reported that doctors were expecting an increase this summer in the incidence of "seawater sickness" — illnesses contracted from swimming in contaminated water — and warned that "unless you know the beach is safe and free from pollution, it may be safer just to make sand castles".

More than 300 million gallons of sewage are discharged into the seas around Britain every day. More than half of this, according to Richard Caines, of the Marine Conservation Society, is either raw or has received only rudimentary primary treatment. "We have been using the sea as a dustbin for a long time. Some of our systems are a legacy of the Victorian era," he says.

Mr Caines is editor of *The Good Beach Guide*, the latest edition of which, to be published on Sunday (Ebury Press, £5.99), details 150 of the cleanest and most pleasant areas. The guide, sponsored by Heinz, will also carry the Golden List, first compiled by the Coastal Anti-Pollution League, which includes information on any beach where there is a sewage outfall.

"Some of these are so short that the discharge doesn't even reach the water. Others end just within the water, but the muck and the seagulls would alert you. There may be more hidden threats though, when the outfall is not so obvious. A pipe may take the effluent a kilometre out to sea, but bacteria and viruses can survive two or three days and during that time they may be washed back into shore."

Health problems are not confined to sea-bathing: a dip in the river or canal may be equally hazardous.

Richmond borough, for example, put up notices at the end of last season advising people to keep out of the Thames. A spokesman said the decision had been taken because of concern over pollution, floating wreckage and Weil's Disease, an illness carried by rats and transmitted in their urine to humans that affects kidneys, sometimes with fatal results.

British Waterways recently launched a drive to warn of the dangers of canal bathing. "The worry of Weil's Disease has grown because last year was a boom year

for rats, but generally you take a risk with your health if you go into a canal," a spokesman said.

Mr Caines claims not enough research on the effects of water pollution on health has been done, though there are some signs that the Government is now taking the threat seriously. The Department of the Environment commissioned a special study last year in which male and female volunteers from Swansea swam in the Langland Bay on the Mumbles peninsula on a particular day in September. Their subsequent health was compared with that of a control group of non-bathers. The results of that and a back-up study should be known within the next couple of months.

Anti-pollution legislation does exist: the EC's Bathing Waters Quality Directive was introduced in 1976, but since there is no uniform interpretation, results from one country cannot be compared with those from another.

"The British Government has traditionally only looked at the bacterial standards of water and not those standards covering clarity and viruses," says Blake Lee-Harwood, of the Friends of the Earth water and toxics campaign.

"This directive also only applies to areas designated as bathing waters by a particular country. Britain has always dragged its feet over this one. For instance, it began by designating only 27 areas, which was seven fewer than Luxembourg, which has no coast. The number has now gone up to 400, but they are all coastal. No attention is paid to lakes or rivers."

The "pass rate" among Britain's designated beaches is 76 per cent. "We are getting there, but we're still moving too slowly," Mr Caines says. "We were meant to get them all past the minimum standards five years ago. And there are still only a handful of beaches that come into the really top quality of water category."

Compared with many parts of the developing world and even the Mediterranean, Britain is relatively well off, according to Professor Alasdair McIntyre, a marine biologist at Aberdeen University and chairman of the United Nations working party of scientific experts on the marine environment worldwide. The fact that only 21 UK beaches received the European "blue flag" award compared with 120 in Spain, for example, was not necessarily a reflection of comparative cleanliness: the measures might not be uniform and the award was based on other facilities, such as beach patrols, as well.

However, the United Nations Environmental Programme's



Danger zone: children playing in warm, shallow water are at risk as they stir up viruses and bacteria attached to particles on the bottom

(Unep) plan to clean up the Mediterranean has led to a substantial overall improvement. Unep estimated that a decade ago 90 per cent of the sewage from Mediterranean countries was dumped in the sea with little or no treatment.

By last year, however, according to a report in *Holiday Which?*, the organization said the sea had generally been made much cleaner, though the situation varied from country to country. In theory all 18 countries bordering the sea are co-operating with the plan, but information on actual levels of pollution was readily available in only two countries, *Holiday Which?* says.

France, Italy, Greece and Spain are bound by the EC directive, but whereas France posts its beach conditions in public places and Italy's Ministry of Health publishes its findings, Spain was slow to release its 1988 figures and Greece, despite having 15,000 miles of coastline, had designated fewer than 100 beaches for testing.

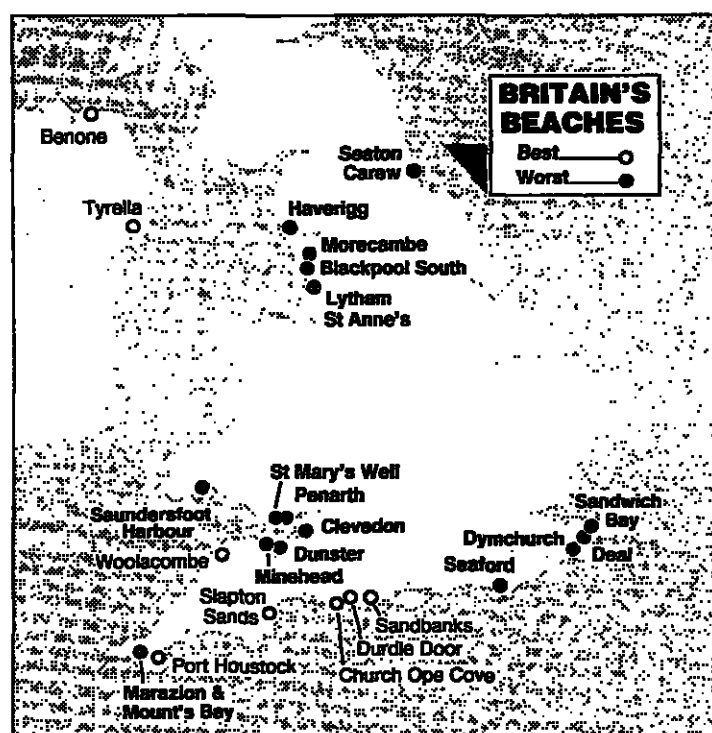
Professor McIntyre says many

British beaches still have significant problems.

"To get the gastroenteric upsets you generally have to swallow the contaminated water, but that's not uncommon, particularly if you're doing things like learning to waterski, which might involve a lot of falling in." Risks increase if the head is submerged, giving germs a chance to enter through the ears or nose.

"Small children often run extra risks if they're playing in warm shallow water, because these viruses and bacteria attach themselves to particles which then sink to the sand on the bottom. Children tend to stir these up and they also tend to stay in the water longer."

What you can catch from polluted water depends on the incidence of disease in the population. Although cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and polio can be passed on this way, they are rare in this country. Swimmers abroad, however, run greater risks of catching these and other diseases, such as the notorious bilharzia of Africa, which is carried by worms.



Doing a dirty job: *The Good Beach Guide* lists the places to avoid

Patience and the patient

Surgery could be safer — if only we would wait

British hospital patients are not as docile as they once were. They have come to expect the best, and if they do not get it they want to know why, according to the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Against this background of rising expectations, the Royal College yesterday produced new guidelines aimed at improving standards of care and safety in operating theatres, but warned that as a result, patients may have to wait longer for non-emergency operations.

The college recommends that hospitals should keep at least one of their operating theatres available 24 hours a day exclusively for emergency and urgent cases, and that fewer such operations should be performed during the night, when fewer staff are on duty.

The guidelines are a sequel to a report published by the college two years ago into peri-operative deaths in NHS hospitals. It showed that seven patients in every 1,000 undergoing surgery died within the next few days or weeks.

The new report says consultant surgeons must take responsibility for all operations, whether done by themselves or by junior staff. If they delegate an operation, they must be available, or their whereabouts known, to the surgical team.

"The British operating theatre is still a very safe place, but some of the deaths which occur are avoidable or preventable," Mr Adrian Marston, chairman of the working party that produced the new report, said yesterday.

Mr Brendan Devlin, who led the college inquiry into peri-operative deaths, said: "We found few instances of really bad surgery, but we must strive to improve our standards."

He said the improvements could best be achieved by the creation of more consultant posts. "That may have the effect of lengthening waiting lists for some operations," he said. "However, wouldn't you rather wait a month or two longer and make sure it's properly done than go in sooner and run the risk of a botched job?"

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The seat of the problem

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

IN 1370, John Arderne, a doctor who had served at Crécy before practising in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and London, hinted at the embarrassment felt by many patients who find that they have piles, when he said: "The common people call them piles, the aristocracy haemorrhoids, the French figs, but what does it really matter so long as they are curable?"

Viv Richards had no such qualms when he issued a very frank statement explaining that it was his piles which prevented him playing in some of the matches against the English touring side.

Haemorrhoids are dilated veins around the anus or just inside the rectum, an area where there are some highly vascular pads which help to ensure good closure and serve a similar function to draft excluders around a door.

If Viv Richards's discomfort made him more irascible than usual then there is a good precedence for any irritability. Napoleon, for instance, was not his usual self at Waterloo for just the same reason.

There are many superstitions as to the cause of piles: boys are warned at school that sitting on radiators is a sure recipe for disaster and by their mothers that sitting on wet grass can be equally dangerous. Both are nonsense.

There is a strong hereditary tendency

to haemorrhoids, presumably the result of an anatomical weakness which is uncovered by straining, particularly the straining which occurs in heavy lifting. Contrary to popular belief, piles are more likely to be found in manual workers than in the office bound.

Any exercise which induces grunting, whether it is carrying stone slabs to make a garden terrace or pulling a dinghy on to the foreshore, may precipitate piles as may bowel disorders, whether constipation or violent diarrhoea.

Napoleon was not the only soldier to suffer. In a text book of surgery written in 1741 by Monsieur Le Dran, surgeon to the French army, and William Cheselden, surgeon to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the authors blamed the length of time soldiers have to stand to attention. Others have also suggested that there is a relationship between the human upright posture and the development of haemorrhoids. With the exception of the occasional overweight elderly dog, no animals suffer from piles.

Whereas the origin of most haemorrhoids is open to conjecture, some are very definitely secondary to other conditions. Any pelvic mass can cause pressure on the veins and hence piles; the most common specific cause is pregnancy, the most dangerous cancer of the rectum. For this reason no rectal bleeding should be dismissed as "just piles" without careful examination by an expert for there may be a hidden malignancy.

The usual symptoms of piles, such as bleeding, a mucoid discharge, perianal irritation and discomfort, are easily relieved by treatment as are the occasional complications, strangulation, thrombosis or ulceration.

In the 18th century, army surgeons recommended bleeding with leeches while the patient was held over a tub of hot water; a pint of blood a day for several days was extracted before surgery was undertaken. When the operation was done it was surprisingly similar to that carried out today. In fact, a patient's dread of specialist intervention is unnecessary as very few need surgery.

John Arderne in the 14th century realized how successful treatment could be; he did not charge for the operation but asked that he should be paid a small annuity, so long as the patient was trouble free. He died a rich man.

Sticky wicket

Viv Richards has not been alone in his troubles; the English team has suffered too. Five players have shared fractures to the elbow, fingers, wrist and thumb.

Fractures to the hands and fingers are more associated with boxers than cricketers. The typical boxer's injury, fractures to the long bones in the back of the hand, usually heals without trouble or any intervention other than the application of a slab of plaster to protect the injured part. More complex treatment is usually unnecessary as the other bones in the hand act as effective splints.

Early movement is recommended and any resulting deformity — boxers' hands are often badly misshapen — is seen as a justifiable price to pay for good function later. An exception is a fracture of the base of the third, a Bennett's Fracture, named after a Victorian Irish surgeon. Even if it is well looked after, the patient must expect at least eight weeks incapacity. If

badly aligned and set they may have a weak hand forever.

Fractures to the small bones of the wrist are a casualty officer's nightmare. They are difficult to diagnose, but if missed and not treated the cost may be a painful arthritic joint for life.

Domestic fractures to the fingers caused by being caught in a door or window repair well. They may need simple splinting for two or three weeks. This may be more effective if the neighbouring finger is incorporated into the splint, but whatever treatment is provided it should ensure that the finger is back in use within three weeks, regardless of the X-ray appearance. Longer immobilization may result in long term stiffness in the finger joints.

Split opinions

Dido Davies's biography of William Gerhardt the 1920s author whose dazzling early promise was never sustained, is published today (see review on opposite page), but already reviews, particularly that of

Richard Ingrams, have painted the tragic picture of a man who even if he did not suffer from degenerative schizophrenia certainly had many of the characteristics of the schizotypal personality. Doctors are reluctant to suggest that a patient may have a schizoid personality for fear that the resulting stigma may blight every aspect of the patient's life; the disadvantage of their consideration is that many people are deprived of the understanding, and sometimes the early treatment, which might have prevented increasing social isolation and intellectual disintegration.

In the past, the Americans have shown a greater awareness of the difficulties which may be caused by this reluctance, and to some extent overcome them, by dividing these particular personality disorders into different categories.

If Mr Gerhardt had been an American, he might have been told that he suffered from a borderline personality, an avoidant personality, a schizoid personality, or a schizotypal personality. The use of any of these labels could have had its problems, but it might also

have persuaded his family and friends to protect his fragile genius.

Although 40 per cent of people whom American psychiatrists diagnosed as having schizophrenia had had earlier personality changes, the overwhelming majority with these personalities never progressed to schizophrenia.

Mr Gerhardt's early career was glittering. He served in the diplomatic corps, had a novel published to rave reviews while he was still at Oxford and was befriended and promoted by Lord Beaverbrook so that he became a national literary figure while still in his twenties.

Even as a young man his character portrayed many of the danger signals of the schizotypal personality. Unfortunately his lifestyle was guaranteed to accentuate rather than alleviate them.

As he grew older, his ability to write waned and his isolation increased. In old age he lived as a miserly recluse, eccentrically dressed, fearful of the world and surrounded in his musty flat by mounds of old newspapers.

His final work, found after his death, was gibberish.

BOOKS

Pioneer of Modernism

GLYN BOYD HART

Hugh David on the long neglected innovatory and way-out novelist of the Thirties, the peer of Evelyn Waugh and Michael Arlen

WILLIAM GERHARDIE
A Biography
By Dido Davies
Oxford, £25

FUTILITY
By William Gerhardt
Robin Clark, £4.95

MEMOIRS OF A POLYGLOT
By William Gerhardt
Robin Clark, £5.95

GOD'S FIFTH COLUMN
By William Gerhardt
The Hogarth Press, £8.95

Beginning at the beginning, Dido Davies prefaces her efficient biography with a note on how his subject pronounced his name. For most of his life he was William Gerhardt, although there were occasions when he preferred Gerhardt or Gerhart, and even the final "e" was a late addition. This is no mere academic pedantry, for such nomenclatural inexactitude is typical of the exotic individuality of William Gerhardt (1895-1977).

The youngest son of a wealthy Anglo-Russian family, he early on decided that he was a "changeling", and not entirely of this world. Like one of the languid young men who worry their way through the plays of his beloved Chekhov (characteristically, Gerhardt insisted on spelling the name "Chehov") and even "Chehov", throughout an unorthodox education in St Petersburg, London, and at postwar Oxford, he tortured himself with unfair comparisons to an impossibly worldly, wholly imaginary hero, "Henry Eschecoragist". But if adolescence came close to breaking him, it was the Great War that finally made him.

Fluent in four languages, Gerhardt was seconded to diplomatic duties in St Petersburg (Petrograd), in 1917, watched the Russian Revolution at first hand and — for all the world as if the cherry orchard had not been finally grubbed up — acquired his "disputed" slightly effeminate "huspot" manner in the gilded corridors of the British Embassy. Travelling around Europe in the early Twenties, as often as not with an urn containing his father's ashes in his rucksack, he began to write, despite the fact that his English was strangely accented and strongly tainted by Russian. He was still spelling "don" as "font", and wondering "why I was rendered in one single letter, why it is not split light".

Miraculously, it did not matter. After the success of his first two novels, *Futility* (1922) and *The Polyglots* (1925), Gerhardt's literary career, launched on the shoulders of Katherine Mansfield



and Edith Wharton, became one of the talking points of the Twenties. Even today it is not difficult to see why *Futility* is an astonishingly assured first novel. Simultaneously "modern" and wistfully Chekhovian — part one is even entitled "Three Sisters" — it anticipates much of Gerhardt's later self-absorption in its first-person account of a young Englishman's involvement with a ludicrously extended Russian family, whose fortune and entire *raison d'être* are destroyed by the Russian Revolution. Originally subtitled "A Novel on Russian Themes", it might now almost be described as a psychological love story; and despite its mannered style, it still has some claim to be bracketed with *The Waste Land* and *Ulysses* (both also published

in 1922) as one of the bedrocks of English modernism.

Certainly it laid the foundations for Gerhardt's adoption as "the Pet of the Intelligentsia". He was lionized by Arnold Bennett, H. G. Wells, Lloyd George, and Lord Beaverbrook, among others. But, as Davies movingly describes, well before 1930 he had also begun paying the price of fame. Like his exact contemporary Michael Arlen (whose own fictions Gerhardt's sometimes resembled, but always outlasted), he soon became "more famous than his books" — gossip column rather than book-page fodder. "He is so handsome as to be almost beautiful," an American paper had gushed in 1928, but by 1931 even Beaverbrook was considering featuring him in a series on "Splendid Failures".

As Davies demonstrates, "the mood was changing"; the Thirties were far more political and pragmatic than the Twenties. Somehow Gerhardt's Proustian fastidiousness was no longer enough. Tellingly, perhaps, it was in the first year of the new decade that he chose to publish his autobiography, *Memoirs of a Polyglot*. He was just 35, but as things turned out, the book was as much a valediction as the hoped-for pot-boiler.

To all intents and purposes, Gerhardt had lived his life by 1930; and in *Memoirs of a Polyglot* he does it full justice, writing fluently, humorously, and as only he could about his childhood, St Petersburg, the war, and his later success. But, beneath the surface gloss, the warning signs are already there. The book begins with "The Author's Speech" and concludes with a sermon on "How to Lecture in America". In both, the tone is hectoring, belligerent, prickly, and defensive. "READERS — My relations with the Sitwells continue to be friendly. H. G. Wells approves of me unreservedly; Bernard Shaw in essentials."

And, as his public appeal waned

— sales of the (admittedly below par) *Memoirs of Susan* (1932) repaid only £192 6s 8d of a £1,000 advance — so this embattled unfashionability grew. More than one manuscript was returned as unreadable ("People stopped talking like your characters about 35 years ago"), but to Gerhardt it had almost ceased to matter. Holed up in his London flat, a virtual recluse, he lived in a world of his own, inventing at various times a self-pasting toothbrush and Sherriva, a cocktail of sweet sherry and evaporated milk.

He was still writing, however, and much the best part of Dido Davies's measured and wonderfully readable biography is her account of the dogged attempts to complete and place one "magnum opus" after another. It is a genuinely moving story. Sadly, the 85,000 slips of paper that were meant to coalesce into a vastly ambitious work entitled *This Present Breath: A Tetralogy in One Volume*, will now never be anything more than 85,000 slips of paper. On the other hand, thanks to the efforts of Michael Holroyd and Robert Skidelsky, *God's Fifth Column*, a "biography" of the period 1890-1940, which Gerhardt completed in 1942, was posthumously published in 1981.

Now also republished in paperback, it is the typically uncategoryable product of a unique talent, mixing personal experience and public record to create a vivid picture of what was and what should have been. Quite apart from its own merits, its highly successful mixture of gossip, good sense, and academic rigour, Dido Davies's biography does just the same. Gerhardt, one feels, would have approved of its sensitive portrait of an unjustly neglected writer, whose downfall was his very strength. As Davies records, it was L. P. Hartley who noted that "an author does not cease to be brilliant, humorous and delightful just because he is aware of being brilliant, humorous and delightful".

Novels of the week: Prima donna and Primavera passions

Paranoia, by definition, is a terrible affliction; but when Peter Prince's characters detect it in one another they almost sigh with relief. "It was all much more ordinary than he had feared," thinks Tom Scott on a mercy visit to Susan Strang, an out-of-work actress who for five years or so has been in a black mood, holed up in a miserable seaside town. He is cheered to find her "an everyday case of rampant paranoia".

His unarticulated "Phew!", though, is a stage gesture of pantomime proportion. For as a television director, he, too, is "in the business", in a self-obsessed world in which dramatic effect and entertainment value can all too easily be drawn out of situations where it is not scripted. At the heart of this shrewd and funny novel about friendship in the world of stage and screen, sits a siren figure, the soap opera queen lurking in us all, who tempts us to slam down phones and compose drop-dead lines, to make flamboyant exits and plot triumphant come-backs.

Or, like Susan Strang — a one-time Best Actress of the Year for her role as Lucy Entwistle in a historical saga — to write spiteful, posturing letters to old friends because no one recognizes her brilliance, let alone offers her the right (which means RSC and leading) parts. Not surprisingly, Susan swears Tom Scott's offer of "three lines and a sneeze — just to get you started again", but only because she has landed the role of a lifetime.

Her director is Raymond Thorne, a sad, skinny local man, flattered to be befriended by this "star" who will not only listen to his maudlin stories of wicked brothers, Nazi fathers, and cheated inheritances, but will act upon the injustice of it all immediately. Pooling her sense of being wronged with his, Susan prepares to carry off an epic role of revenge. Wearing a fur coat, carrying a revolver, playing it up like the good professional she used to be, she crosses Europe on a train to shoot Raymond's brother.

All goes smoothly until the French-Spanish border, when contrary to the plan, she must go through Customs — with the revolver. The officials stop her; they notice she is using a false name (disguised as a radio), they smile at

A star in her courses

FICTION

Sarah Edworthy

DEATH OF A SOAP QUEEN

By Peter Prince

Bloomsbury, £13.99

PRIMAVERA

By Stevie Davies

The Woman's Press, £12.95

THE ICE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD

By Mark Richard

Cape, £12.95

her, questioning. It's all over, she thinks, anticipating handcuffs. Then people start screaming, fainting, throwing bouquets, chanting "La Entwistle!" It turns out the old saga is on international syndication. Instead of travelling as anonymous speck, Susan is a born-again star.

It is a brilliant moment of realization, and one in which both comic and compassionate possibilities are expounded to the full. Blossoming under the adulation, Susan acknowledges to herself that she has tricked poor Raymond, that actors are monsters, who do anything in the great search for an effect, but this murder business is all a bad joke. And yet — but not too early in the story — her new found sanity must survive one last star appearance for Raymond.

In Peter Prince's previous novel, *The Good Father*, there was a lot of staring through rain-drenched windows before happiness was advocated in the modest values of being a loyal husband.

All good father and faithful friend. In *Death of a Soap Queen*, the same preoccupation with the scale of personal fulfilment is mirrored in the apparent failure of Susan Strang and the overt success of

Tom Scott. For Tom unrealistically, hankers after big screen acclaim with huge, sweeping dramas, before accepting the fact that his talent lies in miniaturist, slice-of-life documentaries for the Beeb. The denouement for both of them is highly entertaining, rich in twists and happy coincidences.

In *Primavera*, Stevie Davies slaps two incongruous slices of life together — prosperous, rural Pennsylvania, and on-the-breadline Bradford, Yorkshire — with a sliver of Florence. Inevitably, the result is that one can never quite forget that this is fiction.

Moreover, it is a surprising affirmation of Victorian prudery. For when the blatant eroticism of all those Renaissance nudes causes septuagenarian Jack to fall in love with a boy in the Uffizi, he turns out to be Bradford girl called Jenny, while Jack's grey-haired wife Maureen finds herself in love with Nick, a woman 30 years her junior. And all because of Botticelli's "Primavera". The hurly-burly of plot here is a rather schematic blurring and redefining of what one is encouraged to call "gender distinctions".

Despite a well chronicled timetabling of daily life on both sides of the Atlantic, there is not enough to engage much interest. Davies's men are aggressive, red-necked brutes (until old and impotent when they become sweet); her women (predominantly thin, fragile creatures) are for ever falling into each other's arms in spontaneous outbursts of intuitive understanding. The four eat, drink, and eventually shrug off their strange, experimental affinities.

Three early stories in *The Ice At The Bottom Of The World* are so riveting that one cannot begin to paraphrase them. In "Strays", "Her Favorite Story" and "Happiness of the Garden Variety", Mark Richard's unique, halting idiom eschews the brand-name dirty realism of other writers of the American South for a Faulknerian knife-edge of horror and hilarity. His characters don't shop in neon-lit malls or watch MASH re-runs; they live in peeling backwater shacks with neglected kids, black eyes, stray dogs, and terrible marriages. They relive Indian myths, and become the victims of their own games and fantasies.

The later stories rely on an interest in seafaring; but the writing is still addictive.

Everyday tale of terror and nightmare morality in Ulster

IRA ironies

Michael Wright

LIES OF SILENCE

By Brian Moore

Bloomsbury, £12.99

Picture the plot of this tense middle-brow thriller as a love triangle bisected by terrorism. Michael Dillon is an unhappy married Belfast hotel manager, guiltily preparing to confess his affair to his wife Moira, and begin a new life with Andrea, an adoring media girl. In a well-oiled but particularly unpleasant *deus ex machina*, masked IRA men break in to his house and force him to drive a bomb to his hotel; force him to make a decision between murdering dozens of innocent people or causing the death of his wife, held hostage.

What follows spans just a few days. The narrative is taut, fluent, occasionally breathless; and it races towards its final, sickening sentence. Time is an urgent force from the outset, clock and heart-beat ticking like time bombs. Fearful uncertainty is reflected in a barrage of question marks that litter each page like eyelashes.

The novel's strength lies in its

disinterestedness, focusing on the doubts of ordinary people in standing up to terrorism. Its weakness is rooted in the shadowy characterization of Dillon and Andrea, not clearly enough formed for us to fear for their lives with genuine horror. Despite some neatly drawn minor characters, the book lacks strength in depth, and does not generously repay second or third readings. Its

prison architecture is harsh and unrelenting. Its smooth walls provide no jutting hand-holds for the reader, no purchase on the action. It is all black and mushroom, like Bloomsbury's stark-dust-jacket. Moore has created a compelling and attractively nasty novel, punching its way through the "lies of silence" that maintain the deadlock to the fear and uncertainty beneath.

Ironies become apparent, as Dillon begins to see his changed surroundings as a film in which he has no part. Like actors on a stage, every character wears a mask of sorts, not merely the IRA in their Halloween balalaavas. For Dillon, people look more "real" on television; yet his own experiences belie those distant events spooned out by the newscasters. The novel leaps beyond the media, films, and television. It is a double irony then that its faceless hero will only come to life in that inevitable transfer from print to celluloid.

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ARCHITECTURE

DES JENSON

Monster at the market gates?

Is our last great opportunity for conservation in London turning into an architectural tragedy?

Alan Franks examines the controversy over Spitalfields

In the uncertain balance of influences at the part of the map where the City of London expires and the East End takes over, the old fruit and vegetable market of Spitalfields is about to play a fateful role. A reworked version of plans to turn the 12-acre site into a major complex with one million square feet of offices and shops is to be considered by the local authority before the end of the month.

The scheme for this, one of London's last remaining sites of such social and historical sensitivity to be considered for redevelopment, has been widely condemned by the influential *Architects' Journal*, which claims that "an architectural tragedy is in the making". Built within a stone's throw of Hawksmoor's Christ Church, the complex would sport a seven-storey shopping arcade, restaurants, bars and three acres of public open space. The scheduled date of completion is 1994.

Critics of the £500 million scheme, including the Royal Fine Art Commission and the Georgian Society, argue that such a large project, containing such a high commercial concentration, will destroy the balance of the neighbourhood with its peerless examples of early 18th-century town houses. Together with the nearby Bishopsgate goods yard and Brick Lane brewery, both the subject of planning proposals and between them installing another 20 acres, Spitalfields has become the focal point in the continuing battle for the eastern frontier of the City.

The fate of the plans by the American architects Swanke Hayden Connell's—the fourth set to be submitted—hangs on the decision of the nine-member Bethnal Green Neighbourhood Committee, which is expected to meet on April 27. If this sounds like an oddity, it is. The committee is an oddity, a parish council of sorts, each one composed of the

councillors from the constituent wards.

The Bethnal Green group has never had a larger or thornier problem than this; at present the City appears to jar to a resolute halt on the frontier of Bishopsgate, a final barrier range masking the turbulence of Liverpool Street Station. The sheer face of the new Exchange building, a power dresser if ever there was one, glowers implacably across the roof of the squat market and the tight little streets beyond. The redevelopment, say its opponents, spells nothing but encroachment, the market and its natural defences have kept the surrounding neighbourhood gentled in a *declassé* sort of way.

Already the air is full of newer foreignisms. The centrepiece of the new scheme would be a gallery, designed by the Spanish engineer-architect Santiago Calatrava, who boasts the roof vaulting at Zurich Station and the Felipe 11 Bridge in Barcelona among his attainments. Swanke Hayden Connell may be able to point to the refurbishment of the Statue of Liberty as evidence of their worthiness, and yet they were also responsible for the Trump Tower. The neighbourhood of Spitalfields feels threatened by scale, and by the fear that in any plan purporting to link a rich area with a poor one, the latter will be the loser.

The architects and their apologists say that because of the "reasonable" scale of the new buildings, and because of the predominance of brick and wood in their construction, the renewed Spitalfields would keep a civilised hold on this buffer zone between commerce and community. They also maintain that in handing over 118 new homes on the site to a consortium of housing associations, they would be offering a planning gain without precedent in such a development.

Mr David Walker, the project's director of design, concedes that architecture itself is at the forefront of the debate, as it was before the present scheme replaced an earlier proposal by the architect Richard MacCormac. "It

will aim to have a certain modesty," he says, "as opposed to the new Bishopsgate building which is rather like an inflated country house... It will also have some familiarity about the materials used—the brick and wood and Portland sandstone, rather than the polished granites and flashy, exuberant fronts of the City."

He also stresses that there will be no large expanses of vertical elevation, and that the whole scheme is informed by the wish to show an appreciation of the construction of many fine Georgian houses.

After six years of heated deliberation, time is now of the essence, for if the neighbourhood committee, with its Liberal majority of three, rejects or defers the application, the Spitalfields Development Group inevitably fears a more hostile reception if Labour is returned to power in Tower Hamlets after the May 3 elections. The council is currently hung between 25 Liberal and 25 Labour members, with the Liberal mayor having the casting vote. Councilors are this week seeking to have a meeting of the authority's still-centralized policy and resources committee scheduled to sit directly after the conclusion of the neighbourhood committee's session.

If the scheme does receive approval, then SDG's adviser Goldman Sachs will be able to carry out its brief of seeking a fourth member of the consortium; the present three are the London and Edinburgh Trust (part of the Swedish Pension Group SP), Balfour Beatty (the construction arm

of BICC), and County and District Properties (the property arm of Costain).

Whatever the outcome, the market itself is already in the endgame stage. It is to move to a purpose-built complex on a 32-acre site three and a half miles away at Temple Mills in Waltham Forest.

Anne Docherty, assistant planning officer of the Bethnal Green Neighbourhood Centre, says that one of the difficulties has been that a succession of altered plans has been submitted. "What we are being asked to consider now is Mark 4," she says. "Whatever happens, a development of this size is bound to have enormous impact on the area as a whole, as it will bring the City into the heart of Spitalfields. I expect that there will be a resulting rise in land values, and that that could in turn force more businesses out. The traders of the market have been extraordinarily compliant. What has happened is sad, but at the same time they have had to think of their future. With the increasing size of the vehicles, and the competition from the supermarkets, they would have had no choice but to improve access."

One of the market's longest-serving employees, Sammy Wright, is stoical about the future. "I started here as an empty boy 49 years ago," he says, looking across Brushfield Street at the boarded premises of M. Mack, the fruiterer. "Old Murrice Mack. He's been a long time dead... empty boys were the ones who cleared up the empty crates after delivery. I will be going with the market when it moves. I don't know quite how it will be, but I am definitely going with it."

passed, in effect restricting their entry.

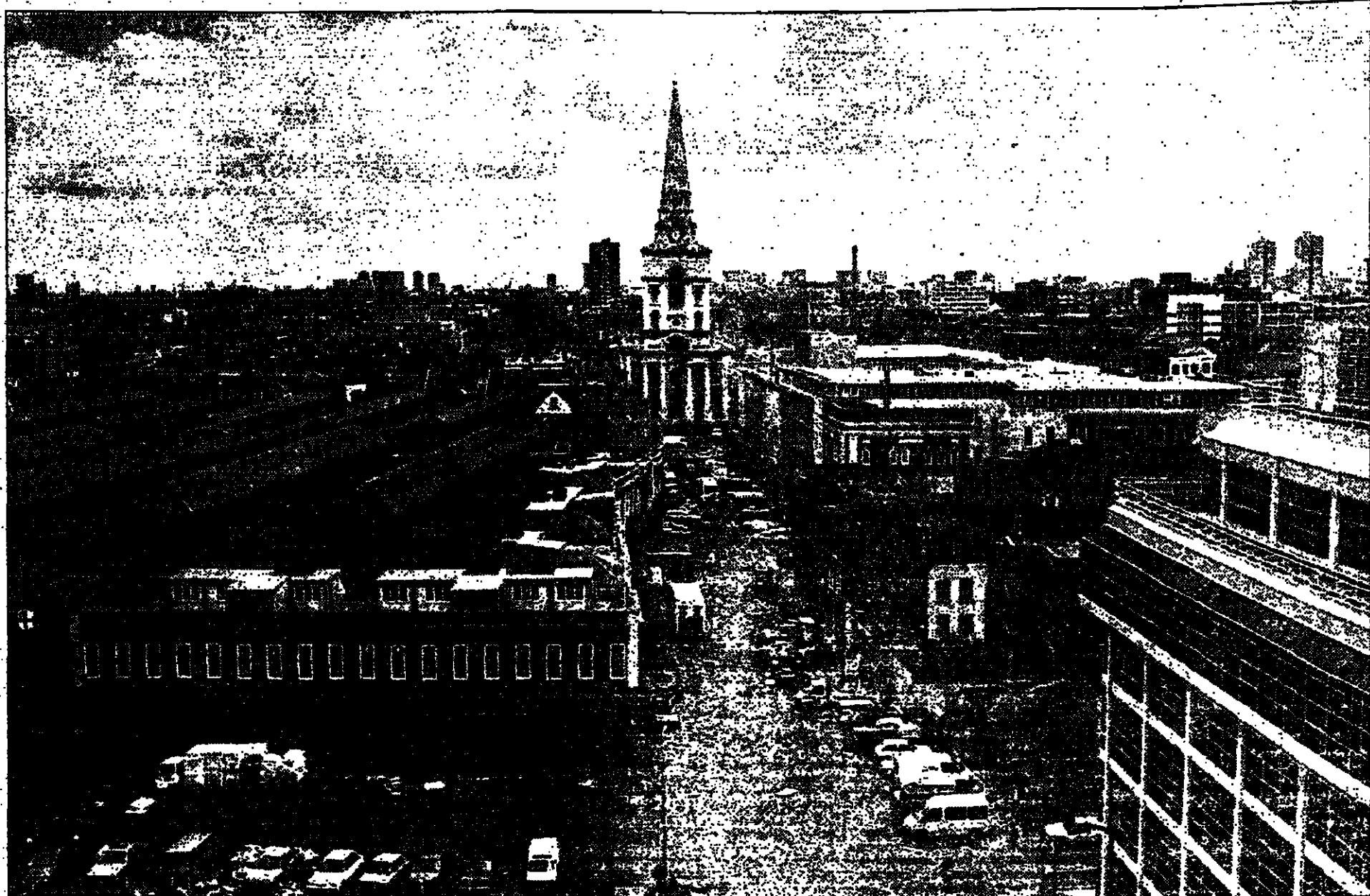
The inter-war years offered prospects of upper social mobility, and the Spitalfields ghetto began to dissolve. The Blitz, and then the post-war reconstruction of the East End, saw more and more children of the ghetto disappearing to other areas.

Of the Huguenots there now remain the splendid houses, and one church, L'Eglise Neuve, built in 1743 and subsequently a Methodist chapel, a synagogue and a mosque.

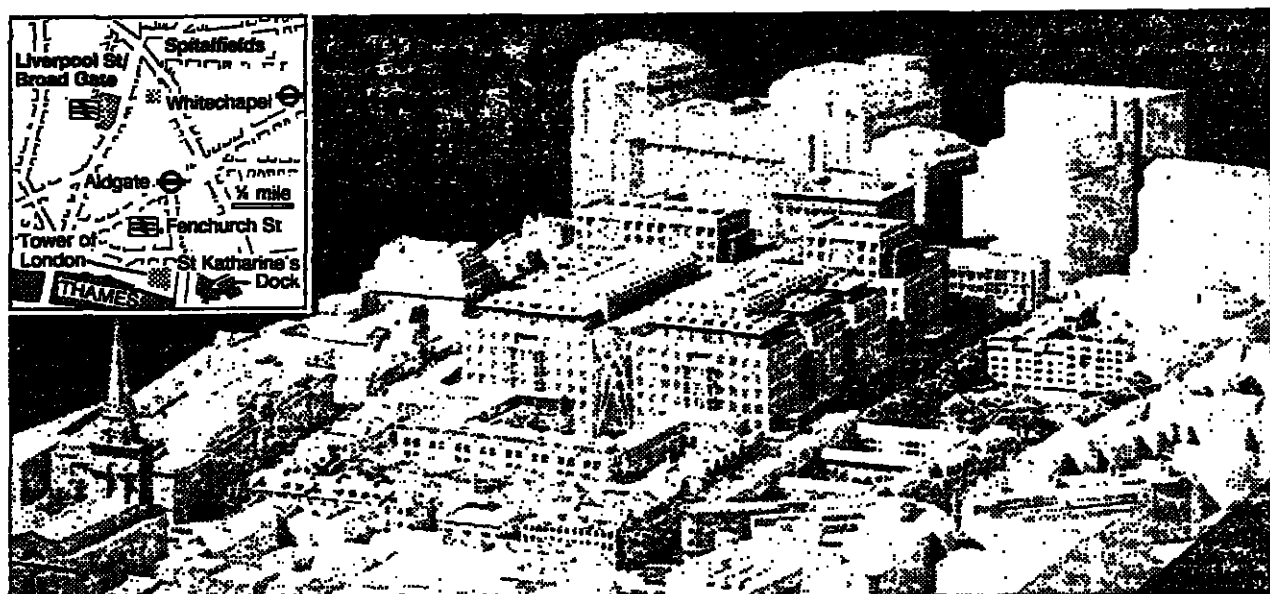
Now, Bangladeshi newcomers reside in the houses that once accommodated Huguenot, Irish and Jew. The old pattern of immigration has been repeated, the legendary London streets becoming a magnet for a poor rural folk seeking escape from perennial floods, famine and civil strife. There is still a flourishing light engineering industry, chemical and transport plants and, above all, the traditional clothing trade. One can still hear the hum and whirr of machines, just as in the day of Huguenot weavers. And at the same time, there has been another, newer wave of immigration. In the areas bordering the City, housing is at a premium. Fournier Street still has houses erected by the Huguenots, and professionals looking for elegant and relatively cheap homes within walking distance of their offices are displacing Bangladeshis, while artists and sculptors have moved into the wide attic workshops.

W.J. Fishman

Professor Fishman is a social historian at the University of London.



Past, present, future: the Spitalfields area (above), overlooked by Christ Church, and with the near-derelect market at its heart, and (below) a model of the latest proposals



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A refuge through the ages

The East End has been the point of arrival for immigrants since the 17th century and Spitalfields, "the East End within the East End", is where many of them have settled.

First came the Protestant Huguenots, fleeing from religious persecution in France. They transformed the open pastures of the Spitalfields into blocks of fine, sturdy three-storey houses, topped by large windowed attics where they installed and worked their silk weaving looms. Outside they planted mulberry trees to sustain their imported silkworms. They brought to the East End a Calvinistic earnestness, directed towards hard work, the perfection of new techniques aimed at quality products, combined with personal success gauged by affluence.

No other refugees would encounter such rich warmth and sympathy – before or after. They were white, entrepreneurial and confirmed Christians. They prospered as cutlers, watchmakers, jewellers, opticians, locksmiths, hatters and glovers, and above all they implanted the clothing trade in the area that has continued to this day.

Then they disappeared, 15,000 of them, to the West End and into provincial England, and by natural assimilation. Among their legacies were almshouses, charity schools, a general hospital, mutual benefit societies and oatmeal soup.

By the early 19th century, the labouring force at the bottom of the pile in Spitalfields was largely English or Irish. The once busy, bourgeois side streets off Brick Lane became a point of attraction

From the Huguenots to the new Commonwealth immigrants, the poor bring their hopes and skills



Aspects of change: the old synagogue in Brick Lane

for any feckless transient, mendicant, professional beggar and conman in the metropolis. Soon the residue of the respectable fled.

By the 1850s Spitalfields had become a dank, notorious slum, with a network of rockeries. The poet Francis Thompson caught the flavour when he sought shelter in the Crispin Street Sisters of Mercy hostel, and recalled an image of a City of Dreadful Night.

Famine, in the 1840s, brought a steady stream of Celtic immigrants into the East End. But by the end of the 19th century, as intermarriage increased, a new Anglo-Irish stock took areas of Spitalfields. Their children

now spoke in the local *patois* and it was against this backdrop that Charles Dickens set many of his tales, and Charles Booth commenced the first scientific exploration of an inner city deprived area.

After 1881 came a steady influx of Jewish immigrants fleeing from persecution in Russia and Poland. As with the Irish, the Spitalfields Jew was subjected to local ostracism. Jews were vulnerable as a national scapegoat conjured up by politicians on the make and by ill-informed trade union leaders who viewed their coming as a threat to the livelihood of their members. The result was that in 1905, the first Aliens Bill was

PREVIEW

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The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

OPERA

Barry Millington

LONDON

ARIADNE ON NAXOS: Late Romantic novel-gazing. Strauss's witty contribution to the perennial debate on the nature of opera. Revival conducted by Lionel Friend, with Anne Evans and Michael Hardman. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-838 3161). Tomorrow and Wed, 7.30pm, £25.

MACBETH: Another in the series of superb Verdi productions from the ENO team. With Jonathan Summers and Kristine Oleson. Mark Elder conducts. ENO (as above) Sat, Tues, Fri, 7.30pm, £25.

LA CENERENTOLA: Michael Hampson's Salzburg Festival production comes to London. Cast includes Agnes Bains, Claudio Desderi and Françoise La Roux. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086). Tues, 7.30pm, £25-£32.

OUTSIDE LONDON

TRIAL BY JURY/PIANOFORTE: The new look D'Oyly Carte opens its 1990 tour with two new G&S productions. Cast includes Sandra Dugdale and Philip Crosby. Pavilion, Bournemouth (0202 297297). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £11-£15.

L'ELISIR D'AMORE: Jim Fowles produces Donizetti for Bath Opera, conducted by Keith Barnatt. University Hall, Bath (0225 316806). Tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE/GIANI SCHICCHI: Ravel/Puccini double bill in new productions by Mark Duncan, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones. Opera House, Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 446326). Tomorrow, 7.15pm, £4-£21.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR: Blood may be great at the Coliseum, but for the other Scottish play it is unequivocally red in Stephen Unwin's directorial production. Effective sets by Bunty Christie. Civic Theatre, Southampton (0724 840668). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £7.50-£25.

THE MERRY WIDOW: The Monday performance of Lohrer's work at Buxton will be the first opera for the benefit of the deaf and hard-of-hearing. Civic Theatre (as above). Sat, 7.30pm, £7.50-£25. Opera House (as above). Mon, Wed, 7.30pm, £25.

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE: Revival of Gluck's opera in production by Philip Prowse, using his own designs. Cast includes Sally Burgess. Opera North, Grand Theatre (as above). Sat, Tues, 7.15pm, £4-£21.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Keith Warner's hilarious G&S production for

D'Oyly Carte travels south. Cast includes Marilyn Hill Smith. Pavilion (as above). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, £11-£15.

DE FREISCHUTZ: A stimulatingly original, if not wholly successful, view of Weber's arch-Tautonic masterpiece by Andre Engel. Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 475715). Tues, 7pm, £5.50-£23.

SHOW BOAT: In the wake of Opera North's triumphant production of the Jerome Kern/Oscar Hammerstein musical comes a more modest one from Blackpool Operatic Players.

SALOME: Andre Engel's excellent Richard Strauss production, transferring to Scottish Opera from WNO, is a masterly understated study in eroticism. The American soprano Cynthia Mahood heads a new cast. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Wed, 8pm, £5-£25.50.

DANCE

John Percival

LONDON

THE DYBBUK: Kim Brandstrup's new work for London Contemporary Dance Theatre with JoAnn Frawley-Jensen's *Noon Talk on Millionth Street* and a creation by Alena Collins. The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, WC1 (01-837 0031). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, £7.

ROYAL BALLET: Last performance this season of *Princess of the Pagodas* (tonight), then *Giselle* with French guest Laurence Huard and Sylvie Guillem (tomorrow) and *Sylvie Guillem* with Jonathan Cope (Sat and Sun).

TURNING WORLD: A four-week international season opens with Caroline Marchand's company from France in the comic *Habit des Femmes* (Mon) and *Les Dances* and *Les Femmes* from Israel in their prize-winning *Two Room Apartment* and a new work, *Donkey* (Tues, Wed).

ELITE SYNCHRONISERS: A revival of MacMillan's popular work to rags by Scott Joplin and others opens Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's short London season. Also *Ballet's Aligni Diversi*, Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky pas de deux* and a new work by young choreographer Vincent Radmon.

OUTSIDE LONDON
SALE'S WELLS: Rosemary Avenue, EC1 (01-278 8916). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £4-£22.50.

LA TRAVIATA: Andre Prokoviev's creation for London City Ballet at Buxton (Mon, Tues, Sat) and Wolverhampton (Tues, Wed).

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending April 14 1990

FICTION

1 A Suitable Life, Mary Wesley Bantam £12.95
2 Golden Boy, Wilbur Smith Macmillan £14.99
3 The Remains of the Day, Hilary Mantel Viking £13.99
4 The Woburn House, Nigel Williams Faber £12.99
5 The Buddha of Suburbia, Hanif Kureishi Faber £13.99

NON-FICTION

1 Michel 1990, France Michel £ 8.99
2 Michel 1990, Britain Michel £ 8.99
3 The Application of Edward VIII, Michael Bloch Bantam £14.95
4 The Nation, Robert Fisk Deutsch £17.95
5 Winston & Clementine, R. Chard Hough Bantam £16.95

PAPERBACKS

Devices and Desires, P. D. James Faber £ 5.99
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Silence of Lambs, Thomas Harris Mandarin £ 3.99
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Ours must be to replant the core
the conscious dream can include it
pressed petals in the book of law are dead
aesthetically lifeless
who has regained the garden
must seed it
reap
and with care somehow not to annually repeat



A central figure to both international and British networks of independent publishers and writers, Allen Fisher (pictured above) reads in London all too infrequently. The verse above the picture is an extract from his collection "Becoming" (December 1978). When he reads in London, as he will tomorrow, he brings work hot from the print-out tray and as a result these are events that delight and surprise sizeable gatherings. He will be presenting material generated from *Prometheus Unbound*: "fly" and "convalescence" from his continuing sequence "gravity as a consequence of shape". Fisher is one of the most innovative and challenging writers to have emerged in Britain over the past two decades. He has made use of an astonishing range of compositional processes in more than 50 books. The word "process" is a key to much of his activity. His is a writing that confronts a society overwhelmingly dominated by the trumpeting of products for consumption. His work suggests a need to pay a careful balance of attention to those processes of creativity and understanding that can present more long-term satisfactions in the future. In doing so he asks pointed questions, with great wit and humour. Audiences are once again beginning to want serious substance and his is a positive voice with which to start. Sub-Voice, The Victoria (upstairs), Mornington Terrace, London NW1 (01-340 6224). Tomorrow, 8pm, £2.50 and £1.50.

Cris Cheek

Opera House, Buxton (0298 72190), 7.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat 2pm, £4.50-10.50. Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton (0902 714775), 7.30pm, £5.50-14.50, mat Wed, 2.30pm, £3.50-£6.50.

GISELLE: Christopher Gable's production for Northern Ballet Theatre. Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 238 9822). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£15.

BOLSHOI GROUP: Bessmertnova in *Swan Lake Act II*, and nine short numbers by principal and soloists. New Theatre, Hull (0482 226555). Fri, Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £12-£22. Hippodrome Bristol (0272 299444). Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, £12.50-£27.50.

READINGS

Cris Cheek

CAROL ANN DUFFY reads from her new collection *The Other Country* which includes autobiographical childhood pieces, tender erotic love poems, witty satires, and chilling futuristic visions. Poetry Society, 21 Earl's Court Square, London SW5 (01-373 7861). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£2 concs) £12.50 members.

WES MAEYER: Prolific and popular writer of poetry, stories and plays reads from his current collection *McCartney*. Beeston Library, Foster Avenue,

Beeston, Nottinghamshire (0602 255168). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50.

SACRED ELEPHANT: Virginia McKenna escapes typcasting as heroine actress and goes for heavier games in presenting *Heathcote Williams's* poem which highlights the plight of the elephant. First Floor Theatre (Westminster Theatre), Palace Street, London SW1 (01-834 0283). Tonight-Sat, 8.15pm, £5.

GEREMY REED: Reading as part of the opening of a new jazz club. Soho Theatre Club, Falconberg Court, London W1 (no phone). Wed, 8.30pm and 10.30pm, £4.

APPLES AND SNAKES: Jean "Binta" Rappaport "Todes" reads from her new collection *Apples and Snakes*. The reading will be in the hot company of Liz Lochhead, Alan Zien and New Hammarston Poet in Residence Jackie Kay. Covent Garden Community Centre, 46 Eastcheap Street, London WC2 (01-639 9365). Tomorrow, 8pm, £3.50 and £2.50.

VOICE BOX: Jackie "Punk" poet's new collection *Voice Box* (Bloodaxe) out this month called off-best - she's actually mostly on the beat (Mon). Katie Campbell, Canadian born journalist, playwright and poet reads short stories from her own first collection *What He Really Wants is a Day* (Tues). Katerina, 11 Pennington Street, London E1. Price, two new young poets get the

chance to air their work (Wed). For children: Richard Edwards leads a workshop for 8-9 year olds (Fri) and John Agard, charming prize-winning poet from Guyana reads poetry about laughter for 11-15 year olds (Sat). Value Box, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50, Fri, 2pm and 3.30pm, workshop £1, reading £1, joint ticket £1.50. Sat, midday and 2pm, for prices see Fri.

PAT ARROWSMITH: Veteran peace campaigner and novelist reads her poetry. Torridge Meeting House, 99 Torridge Avenue, London NW5 (01-267 2751). Sun, 7.30pm, free.

PERFORMANCE ART

Ghislaine Boddington

MONA HATOUNE: *Measures of distance*. A slow motion video work set in her mother's Beirut apartment shows deep-seated separation. Also sharing the bill, Lebanese "Altered tracks", a performance piece that deals with, and seeks to define, the intricate complexities of Irish women. Work exploring the political and social contradictions of their backgrounds. Followed by discussion. Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, 151 Poyers Street, Woolwich, London SE18 (01-816 2752). Tonight, 8pm, free, concs on request.

ANNE GRIFFIN: *Glories Presents Anti-Adams*. A mixed group of young performers explore what seems to be a late 20th-century obsession with Greek myths. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SW1 (01-828 8800). Tonight, 7.45pm, £5 (£2 concs).

ANNE GRIFFIN: *Almost Persuaded*. An excellent show extended for a further week. TAC2, 20-22, Highbury Corner, London N3 (01-700 5716). Tues-Thurs (weekly) 7.30pm, late show Thurs, 10pm (late bar), £5.

DAVID WARD: *Keepers of Light*. Ward's strong form "photograph without a camera" exhibition is augmented this week by "lightwork", a children's workshop for 8-10 years, combining movement, light, sound and photography. Cambridge Darkroom, Dale's Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge (0223 50725). Workshop: Today, tomorrow, Wednesday, 5.30pm-7.30pm. Sat 12-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 13.

FRAN COTTELL: *Window Shopping* - *Especially at Sex*. One of a series of window displays challenging the definition of public art. On view 24 hours a day. Until May 3.

"108 Charing Cross Road" (two windows). St Martin's College of Art and Design, London WC2 (01-753 9080).

A RALPH RALF PRODUCTION: *Dimmer*. An international group of performers undergo the etiquette of a formal dinner and overcome communication problems. Invested non-verbal work that evokes the textures and dynamics of language. Third Eye Centre, 345-354 Saundwell Street, Glasgow G4 (01-352 0522). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2 (£1 concs).

JACOB MARLEY AND STEPHEN TAYLOR-WOODWARD: *The Second Sitting*. A specially commissioned piece created by two established performers/artists, a re-run of the Last Supper within a surreal installation. Phoenix Arts Centre, 11 Newmarket Street, Leicester (0533 554854). Fri, Sat, 8pm, £2 (£2 concs).

MIME
TAKTYLE THEATRE COMPANY: A *Member of Millions*. Physical theatre, music and Kandinsky-inspired visuals take the audience on three journeys through Russia. An examination of Soviet Union stereotypes and gnosticism. Norwich Arts Centre, St Benedict Green, Norwich (0603 663352). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, £4 (£2 concs).

NOLA RABE: *Classics*. A "greatest hits" collection of short pieces from the most successful parts of her show over the year. The "queen of mime" has reached pop status. South Holland Centre, Market Place, Spalding (0775 725031). Tomorrow, 8pm, £3 (£2.50 concs).

Compiled by Karl Knight
Items for inclusion should be sent at least 10 days before publication to Preview, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1. 8XN

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol \otimes) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE (PG): Amiable if witless comedy about time-travelling, woolly-headed teenagers. Carleton Place (01-352 5098) Oxford Street (01-836 0310) Pavilion Street (01-830 0311) Odessa Kensington (01-802 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (01-935 2772) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

GLORY (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War; powerful performances. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0331).

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (U): Minuscule children battle giant toy finding safety. Engaging special-effects romp. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0331) Whiteleys (01-792 3303/3324).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyRuling the
tabloid
roost

Jasper Rees

● Killer Bimbo on Fleet Street, this week's *Foxy Minutes* (BBC2, 9.30pm), takes as its premise the fact that there are many more women in power on the popular newspapers than there used to be. The programme begins by pointing out that this has not affected the quality of output: there is a woman picture editor at *The Star*, but there are still pictures of topless women in *The Star*.

Patry Chapman, editor of *News of the World* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The two most high-flying killer bimboes are Eve Pollard, the editor of *The Sunday Mirror*, and Patry Chapman, the editor of *News of the World*. As the credits roll, there is a brief snapshot of Chapman owning up to the fact that she does not have much of a conscience: it is a typically tabloid moment — a quotation taken out of context which paints the person who utters it in a poor light. But, as another killer bimbo points out, career girls don't cry. Cut to a scene in which said killer bimbo keeps an appointment with her acupuncturist, to whom she pours out her troubles. This light-hearted inquiry plays tabloid journalism at its own game. The glib, reductive captions which crop up at the bottom of the screen grate after a while, but then so does the pro style they are parodying.

● The stock of French and Saunders (BBC2, 9.00pm) has risen as their stock of jokes has grown. The trusty "You're fatter than me" / "You're uglier than me" gags are still there, but they have been joined by several new ones, including a series of well-judged send-ups of the rich and famous: tonight they dress up as Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell ("French and Saunders are a girl's best friend"). They seem to be everyone's best friend, as they have no trouble recruiting real live celebrities to appear in their sketches. They overwork tonight's penultimate show so much that, if you didn't know them better, you might suspect them of being camera shy.

● A Month in the Country (Channel 4, 9.30pm) was released as the Kenneth Branagh boom was gathering pace. Branagh's performance in this tale of trench-shock and recuperation is fine enough, but what makes Pat O'Connor's film especially mesmerizing is the measured emotional power of Colin Firth. ● This Week (ITV, 8.30pm) examines the "Battle for Peace" in the Middle East. Both the Israelis and the Palestinians are allowed to put their case: there are interviews with Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat, plus the British heroine of the Beirut siege, Dr Pauline Cutting.

BBC 1

6.00 *Casualty*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayor. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports news, travel and weather information, regional news and a review of the morning newspapers by Paul Cullen 8.55 Regional news and weather

9.00 News and weather followed by Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin and Andi Peters, starting with *Defenders of the Earth*. Animated science fiction adventures 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Children's adventure series incorporating entertaining ideas for young people at a loose end

9.50 *Fooding Pies* (r) 10.00 News and weather followed by *Matchpoint* (r) 10.30 *Playday*. Simon Davis tells the story of *The Sleepy Owl*

10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Easter readings by Jean Marsh

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving follow up viewers' telephone comments on recent television

12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Includes the second in the series searching for locations that inspired Daphne du Maurier. Presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Sayers 12.55 Regional news and weather

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Heydon. Weather

1.30 *Neighbours*. (Coastal) 1.55 *Matchpoint*. Angela Ripston hosts another round of the doubles and mixed doubles general knowledge quiz game

2.15 *The Laramie Drop Kid* (1951, b/w) starring Bob Hope. Hilarious comedy tale based on a Damon Runyon novel about an incompetent racecourse tout who incurs the wrath of a gang leader and has to stump up some \$10,000 in a matter of days. With Marilyn Maxwell and Lloyd Nolan. Directed by Sidney Lanfield

3.50 *Rupert* narrated by Ray Brooks 3.55 *Murphy's Law*. Mark McGann with the story of *Mr Pringle's Return*, by Roy Apper (r) 4.00 *Lesnel and Hardy*. Cartoon (r) 4.05 *New Adventure*. Angela Ripston hosts 4.30 *Simon and the Witch*. Episode six of the 13-part children's series starring Elizabeth Spriggs and Hugh Pollard (r) 4.35 *Tricky Business*. Magic comedy series. Today's guest is Tim Bat

5.00 *Newsround*. News for younger viewers 5.05 *Blue Peter*. With Diane Louise Jordan, Yvette Fielding and John Leslie. (Coastal)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Coastal) 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* presented by Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather

6.30 *Regional News Magazine* 7.00 *Top of the Pops* presented by Jaki Brambles

7.30 *EastEnders*. More dramas concerning the denizens of Albert Square. (Coastal)

8.00 *Tomorrow's World*. Tonight's programme is devoted entirely to the Channel Tunnel, Europe's most ambitious civil engineering scheme. Judith Hama investigates the safety precautions which are being installed, especially to prevent the risk of rabies. She also discovers what it will be like to ride through a tube underneath the Channel

8.30 *Ries Abbot*. More comedy from Dirk Riedel and Moushette as he meets up with a musical dentist (r). (Coastal)

9.00 *One O'Clock News* with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather 9.30 *Birds of a Feather*. A welcome repeat of the light comedy drama starring Pauline Currie and Linda Robson as a sister trying to adjust to a single life after the death of her husband. (Coastal)

10.00 *Film: The Mission* (1986) starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons. Drama, set in the South American jungle in the mid-18th century, with Oscar-winning photography by Chris Menges, about a Jesuit missionary who falls foul of ruthless colonists and finds his life among the hostile Guaraní Indians threatened. With Ray McAnally and Ronald Pickup. Directed by Roland Joffé. (Coastal)

12.00 *Weather*. 12.05 *Regional News*. A Month To Remember. Imam Ghani Reza visits a mosque, the focal point of Muslim worship and the community. Ends at 12.20

BBC 2

6.00 TV-A begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Mike Evans and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. At 8.50 *Wacadoo*, Timmy Mallett's fun and games for younger viewers

9.25 *Cross Wit*. Tom O'Connor presents the game show based on a crossword 9.55 *Thames News* and weather

10.00 *Out of This World*. Children's comedy series about a teenage girl who inherits her alien father's extraordinary powers

10.30 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather

12.10 *The Riddlers*. For the very young 12.30 *Home and Away*. Australian drama series about a couple and their five foster children

1.00 *News at Six* with Sue Carpenter. Weather 1.30 *Thames News* and weather

1.30 *What You Were Here...?* John Carter introduces this special programme in which he looks at the new trend towards long-haul package trips. (Teletext) 2.00 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama set in a small Australian outback town

3.00 *Sounds Like Music*. Bobby Crush quizzes three more contestants with a mania for stage and screen musicals 3.25 *Thames News* and weather 3.50 *Sons and Daughters*

4.00 *Huxley Pig* (r) 4.15 *The Adventures of Tooty Tooty* (r) 4.40 *End Byline*. Episode one of a new eight-part series based on the characters created by End Byline. On their first mission, they investigate Cottage, Philip, Dinah, Jack and Lucy Ann team of the dark history of the castle across the valley. When they search for a path to the castle, they are in for a bit of a why and by whom? Starring Susan George, Gareth Hunt, Brian Blessed and Isabel Blyth

5.10 *Blockbusters*. Teenagers' general knowledge quiz 5.40 *News at Six* with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.00 *Home and Away* (r) 6.25 *Thames News* and weather 6.50 *Thames News* and weather with details of the Winged Fellowship holiday centres

7.00 *Emmerdale*. Drama serial set in the picturesque Yorkshire Dales. (Teletext) 7.30 *Sporting Triangles*. This week the regular captains — Jimmy Greaves, Emlyn Hughes and Andy Gray — are joined by Merlene Coope, Eleri Henley and Johnnie Walker

8.00 *The Bill: Close Co-Operation*. Superior police drama series, well acted with believable story lines. (Teletext) 8.30 *Police: Battle For Peace* (see Choice)

9.00 *TECC: Dead End*. Poor detective series set on the continent, with an obvious eye to European sales. (Teletext) 10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30 *Thames News* and weather

10.35 *The City Programme*. Will tell the news and the story of the poll tax mean the end of Government buy-back of gilts?

11.05 *01-For London*. Includes reviews of the films *For the Moment*, *Mountain of the Moon* and *Roger and Me* as well as an Asian production of *Mohini's Turbulence* at the National. Followed by *Chimes*

11.40 *Prisoner: Cell Block H*. Australian soap set in a women's detention centre 12.30 *Contacts*. Television version of the novel by John Le Carré. The story is given the opportunity to get in touch with each other

1.00 *Speed Chess*. The Intolink European Speed Chess championship 1.30 *Film: L'Engrenage de la Violence* (1982) starring Claude Brasseur, Thierry Lhermie and Veronique Genest. Gripping French revenge thriller about a man who takes revenge on his own hands after his family are killed after being caught in the middle of a shoot-out. Directed by Serge Laroy. Followed by *News headlines*

3.30 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 4.30 *America's Top Ten* (r) 5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

8.00 *News 5.15 Westminster*
8.00 *Film: Copacabana* (1947, b/w) starring Groucho Marx and Carmen Miranda. A seldom amusing musical about the complications that arise after a singer finds herself having to work hard at a top New York night spot when her boyfriend sells her as two different acts. Directed by Alfred C. Green

10.30 *World Snooker*. Second round action from the Embassy World Professional Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield

1.20 *PC Plinkerton* (r) 1.25 *Animal Fair* (r)

1.35 *World Snooker*. Further coverage from Sheffield. Includes news and weather at 2.00

3.00 *News and weather* followed by *Westminster Live*

3.30 *World Snooker* from Sheffield 4.00 *News*, regional news and weather

4.10 *Hong Kong Bill* — A Westminster Live Series

5.10 *World Snooker*. More coverage from Sheffield

6.00 *Film: Interlude* (1957) starring June Allyson and Rossano Brazzi. Sentimental drama, a remake of *When Love Takes Over*. About an American woman in Europe who falls for a married conductor whose wife will not accept the situation. Directed by Douglas Sirk

7.30 *15. Arts* grade unions making a comeback after the restrictions on their activities during the early Thatcher years?

8.00 *Yes*. A welcome repeat of the perceptive comedy series set in Whitehall's corridors of power. (Coastal)

8.30 *Nature: Michael Buerk* presents a report into what has happened, environmentally, to the world in the last two decades, focusing mainly on population expansion

9.00 *Film and Saunders* (see Choice) 9.30 *40 Minutes: Killer Bimbo* on Fleet Street (Coastal) (see Choice) 10.10 *News at Six* (1985, b/w) with Jim Callaghan. The third of the *Borderline Theatre*'s production of *Dario Fo*'s comic history of religion with Robbie Coltrane once again playing the role of Jesus

10.30 *News at Six* 11.15 *Weather* 11.20 *World Snooker*. Continued coverage of the second round matches, introduced by David Vine. Ends at 1.30am

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Art of Landscape*. A soothing combination of peaceful music and stunning landscape images

6.30 *The Channel Four Daily* 9.25 *Fathers of Pop*. The late art critic, Reyner Banham, examines the rebels of the 1950s British arts scene

10.30 *Animation on 4*. *Two Castles* 10.25 *Film: The West Way Out* (1935). An animated Italian parody of the Hollywood western. Directed by Bruno Bozzato

12.00 *The Chizz's Eye*. A look at the use of animal illustration in children's literature (r)

12.30 *Business Daily* 1.00 *Sesame Street* 2.00 *A Full Life*. Robert Maxwell discusses his early life with Jill Cochrane (r)

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing from* *Cricket*. The 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races

4.30 *Fifteen-to-One* 5.00 *North Pole Expedition*. A documentary about a Canadian and three Norwegians who headed for the North Pole on snow scooters (r)

5.30 *Animation on 4*. *Upside Down: The House, Magic Paintbox: The Themes and Inspiration*

6.00 *The Painter's World*. An Australian of how portraits have been influenced by changing conventions

6.30 *Kate & Allie*. *Patsy* domestic comedy starring Jane Carr and Susan Seidelman (r)

7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Nicholas Owen and Zahir Badawi

7.50 *Comment followed by Weather* 8.00 *Great Britain*. The ideas of Ancient Greece still influence modern-day societies. Tonight's programme looks at how people report into what has happened, whether up-to-date technology could numb our ability to sympathize with human suffering

8.30 *The Crystal Maze*. Game show involving a series of cerebral and physical challenges

9.30 *Film: A Month in the Country* (1987) (see Choice)

11.20 *News at Six* (1985, b/w) starring Maya Bulgakova. Drama about a Russian schoolmistress finding it difficult to adjust to civilian life after action as a fighter pilot during the Second World War. Directed by Larissa Shepitko

12.55am *Animation on 4*. *Saturnalia*, *Album*, *Chromaphobia* and *Sirius*. Ends at 1.40

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SATellite

5.00am *International Business Report* 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *Kat* 8.30 *Panor Point Point* 10.00 *The New Price is Right* 10.30 *The Young Doctors* 11.00 *Sky by Day* 12.00 *Another World* 12.30am *As the World Turns* 1.45 *Loving* 2.15 *A Problem Shared* 2.45 *Here's Lucy* 3.15 *Challenge for the Gobots* 3.45 *Super Chicken* and *Tom Slick* 4.00 *The Adventures of Gulliver* 4.30 *The New Leave It To Beaver* 5.00 *Sky Star Search* 6.00 *The New Price is Right* 6.30 *Sale of the Century* 7.30 *Beyond 2000* 8.00 *Midnight* 8.00 *Wagay* 10.00 *Jamison* 11.00 *Sky News* 11.30 *Boney*

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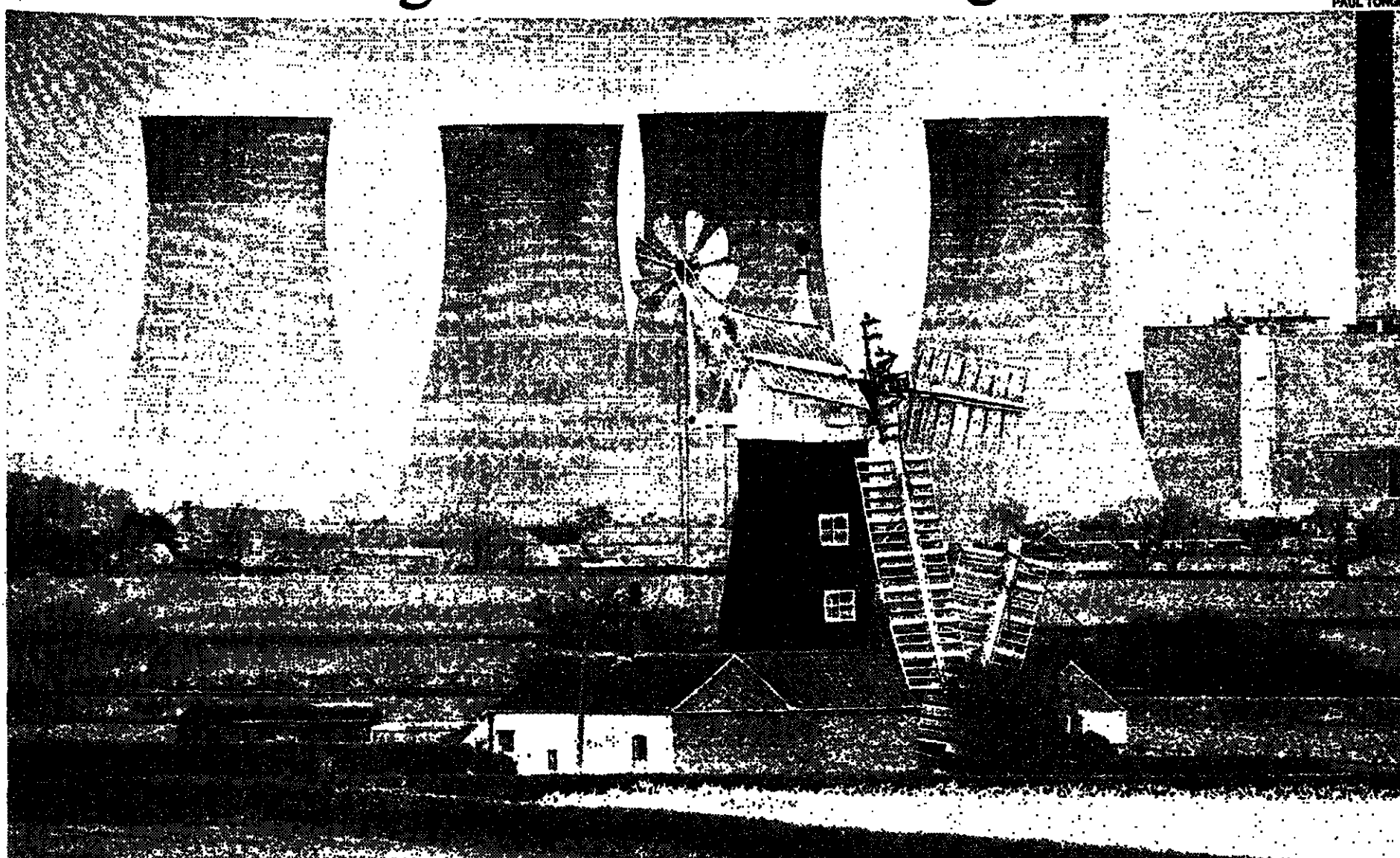
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Storm damage makes windmill grind to a halt



A 20 ft, one-tonne sail of the 160-year-old windmill at North Leventon, near Retford, Nottinghamshire, languishing on a grain store roof where it crashed down during storms over Easter. Mr Keith Barlow, the miller, was explaining the workings of the machinery to a party of 20 visitors when the accident happened, and said it was lucky that no one was injured. He has launched a £10,000 restoration appeal for the mill, which has as a contrasting backdrop a sewer energy source — the West Burton power station

Guides and Brownies only too prepared to don designer gear

By Ruth Gledhill

PROPELLED into the Brownies by a well-meaning mother in the late 1960s, the skimpy thin brown cotton dress, hideous though it was, initially seemed preferable to the bell-bottom trousers my classmates were donning.

We Brownies, officially called Brownie Guides and part of the Guide movement, faced a weekly crisis over commands from Brown Owl to "lend a hand", "do our best" and "hop, skip and jump" in games of tag.

It was impossible to do any of these or other tasks without splitting the cheap mud-brown cotton dress up the sides. As we sat in our small hall in a Staffordshire village, sewing on the badges which testified to our ability to light fires and set tables, we were consumed with envy for the cubs and scouts with their woggles and whistles.

The launch yesterday by the Girl Guides Association of new uniforms for Brownie Guides, Guides, Rangers and Adult Guides has been hailed as a breakthrough for the

movement and its members. The new style was modelled by 120 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers.

Ten thousand Guides and Brownies had been polled for their suggestions, and fashion pundits and guide leaders who watched the fashion show at Central Hall in Westminster forecast that the new uniform would indeed help Guides be more adventurous and compete better with the Scout Association, which recently opened its tents to females.

The Girl Guides, who are seeking more adult volunteers, should now be able to attract more of the legions of Brownies who were put off, as I was, by their first sight of their elder sisters en masse.

Division of rows of Guides at a rally, in navy blue rayon, terylene and polyester, unflattering skirts above the knee and knee-length white socks, looking for all the world like traffic wardens, was enough to send my sister and I galloping to the nearest pony club.

Guides and Brownies can now have stylish uniforms for

formal occasions, camping and social events. Brownies will be free at last of the dreadful brown woollen bobble hat, the universally hated brown knitted cardigan and the yellow crossover tie.

Instead, the designer Jeff Banks, who has created the uniforms at no charge, has toned down the colour to a khaki "forest brown" and introduced sweatshirts and t-shirts in "sunshine yellow".

Guides stay in blue, but can break out into sweat pants, polo shirts, t-shirts and trousers. Rangers will be in aquamarine and navy in place of their former insipid blues.

Miss Emma Wright, aged eight, of the 2nd Worplesdon Brownie Pack near Guildford, Surrey, one of the models at yesterday's launch, commented: "There is a lot of yellow. But I still think we should be called Brownies and not 'yellowies'."

Princess Margaret, President of the Girl Guides Association, attended the launch in London yesterday of the uniforms, wearing her own

new double-breasted uniform (Liz Smith writes).

Mr Banks, who founded the Warehouse chain and presents BBC Television's *Clothes Show*, commented on his design role: "I felt this brief was a goodie. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with the Girl Guide movement."

He used the programme to canvass suggestions from Guides. It was clear they hated the dress and the brown woollen hat but liked the belt. "Working through box-loads of drawings, I got the drift of what was needed," he said.

Race and sex law to extend to Bar

BARRISTERS are to be subject to the race relations and sex discrimination laws in their professional work under proposals announced yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General (Richard Ford writes).

The move is intended to eliminate discrimination and encourage a wider spread throughout chambers of black barristers, tending to be new sets. It is also intended to encourage white solicitors to go to black barristers and to prevent chambers discriminating against black lawyers seeking pupillages.

Sir Patrick said that amendments making barristers sub-

ject to the legislation would be introduced to the Courts and Legal Services Bill in the Commons. He told MPs during the Bill's second reading that the change would cover discrimination in professional relationships at the Bar and between barristers and persons instructing them.

The Government is also to introduce an amendment accepting that solicitor advocates should be bound by the general thrust of the cab-rank principle obliging barristers to accept any case brought to them.

Parliament, page 7
Leading article, page 13

Backbench rebellion fading over Hong Kong passports

Continued from page 1
enter the same lobby as the Tory rebels. Labour is opposing the Bill on the ground that it is elitist and divisive.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, will open for the Government, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will wind up in a debate which will be seen as

one of the biggest tests to date of the authority of the Prime Minister.

Persuasion by the Government whips over the Easter recess and yesterday appeared last night to have whittled down considerably the figure of more than 80 Conservative MPs who originally had said they could not support the

Government. It appears likely that only around half that number will vote against the Government.

The rebellion leaders, who include Mr Tebbit, the former Conservative chairman, were holding meetings at the Commons last night and again this morning to co-ordinate tactics for the latter stages of the Bill.

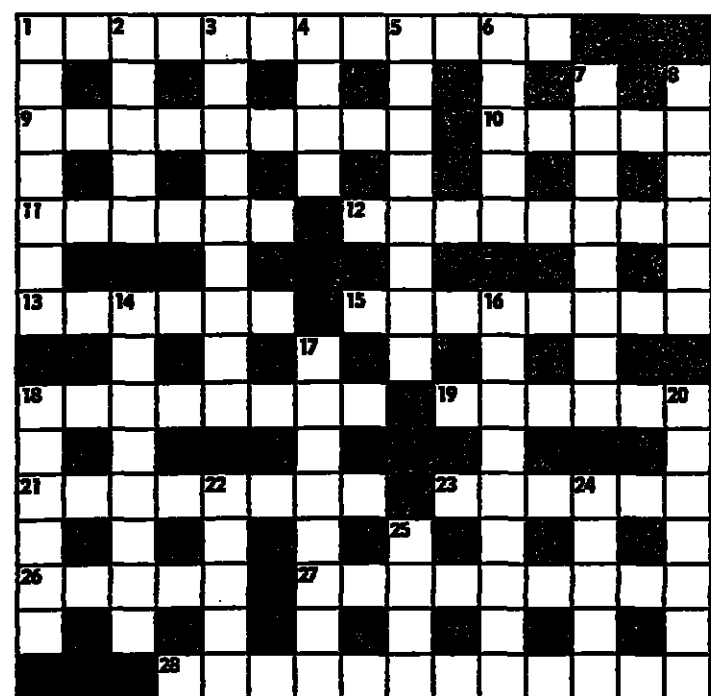
They are expected to urge opponents to vote for the procedural motion taking the committee stage on the floor of the House.

If that fails they will be pressing for enough of their number to be chosen for the standing committee stage of the Bill to be able to influence its final shape.

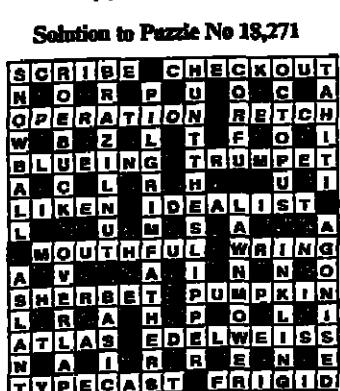
Mr Shore said that he would be abstaining and added that the Labour front-bench would have to make a good case to avoid the charge of "disreputable conduct".

Limited response, page 9
John Walden, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,272



- ACROSS**
- Mother and I had again with time for trip, initially (6,6).
 - The Sultan's subject to a form of madness (9).
 - Slow vehicle (5).
 - Question put to fire-raiser that could produce long recital (6).
 - One may demonstrate article to other ranks (8).
 - Get out or in (6).
 - Foreign title confused us in Rome (8).
 - Left cat without one vital means of communication (8).
 - Delay could make one last (4,2).
 - Container in wine cellar initially reversed (8).
 - Provide workers for a small island (6).
- DOWN**
- Dishonest girl's swag (7).
 - Part of guide's task, in other words (2,3).
 - People in *Hamlet* miscast? Hard chess! (9).
 - Sight vehicle heading East (4).
 - Publication such as Winston Smith's story? (8).
 - Under end of roofing, fit this (5).
 - Newspaper feature giving a lofty view (8).
 - Creature of habit's royal claim to be king (6).
 - Home supporter shot in foot (8).
 - Calming or pacifying about 15 (9).
 - Provide support where hole's found (8).
 - It strips vegetation from tree (6).
 - Without ostentation, bating to get fifty in game (7).
 - 22 It gets blanket coverage in tabloid (5).
 - 24 Pilot's exciting life on river (5).
 - 25 Indians one associates with dance (4).



Concise crossword, page 22

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

- KALPA**
a. A skull-cap
b. A Sri Lankan pink banana
c. 4320 million years
- GYNECEIC**
a. Feminine
b. Labyrinthine
c. Spiralling clockwise
- STRUMMEL**
a. A primitive guitar
b. A straw
c. A mountain stream
- STANDFIRST**
a. Parade ground right-marker
b. A newspaper black
c. A Viking figurehead

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

Anglia during the morning, but may linger near coasts. Further rain will spread later. Central England may start cloudy, but will become brighter before rain spreads from the east in the evening. The rest of England and Wales, with Northern Ireland and Scotland, will have bright intervals but showers may become frequent and heavy. Outlook: Unsettled.

ABROAD

Country	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	
Algeria	11-17	W	100	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	

Times Weather Call

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0858 500 followed by the appropriate code.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Bar: mean sea level, 6 in. 1,010.4 mbars, steady.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Today: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Exeter, Devon, 8C (46F). Highest rainfall: Sturminster Newton, Dorset, 0.4 in. in 24 hours; Guernsey, 11.9 in.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.2 in.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.2 in.

Political Sketch

Discovering the Mace's menace

ENTERING the Commons press gallery yesterday, I stared down at the Mace. An innocent enough implement, I thought. Purely ornamental.

Or was it? Viewed as a mace it was — well, a mace: gold, four feet long, of cylindrical cross-section and sharp at one end. You have one on the mantelpiece at home, no doubt.

But viewed — if you cared so to view it — as a key component in a weapon of mass destruction bound for the murderous Iraqi regime, the Mace took on a different aspect. It lay beneath us now, immobilized, silent on its cradle, seeming to shimmer in the television lights ... An enigma.

Then I looked down at the tall, stooped man, standing next to it at the Dispatch Box. Another enigma?

Nothing unusual, of course, at first glance. Slightly crumpled looking — but he always is — squinting at his brief and reading a text marked *Oral Statement By Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Export Controls (Iraq)*. He seemed to be stumbling, but then Ridley seldom cares to perform.

He is quite capable of floundering hopelessly through an order for two rounds of tomato sandwiches. Tubes for the "polymerisation of polyethylene" could be expected to discomfort such a speaker. Anyway, this was surely just an efficient Customs sloop, whipped up by the press into a tiresome storm.

"I don't know what the Labour Party are making all the fuss about" snapped Ridley. "This has been a successful operation by Customs."

Viewed, however, as an accident-prone Industry Secretary floundering badly as it emerged that his own Department had been duped by the Iraqis, had failed to heed warnings from the manufacturers themselves, and had failed even to back up their fellow civil servants at Customs and Excise — an Industry Secretary who had needed an Israeli Intelligence Service tip-off before he woke up to what was going on — viewed thus, Mr Ridley seemed the epicentre of a small but embarrassing political tremor.

"As I, personally," boomed

Sir Hal Miller (C. Bromsgrove), "over two years ago, made to your Department ... and Miller explained how one of the companies concerned had tried (through him) to interest the Government in what they were being asked to export.

"Every raff raff country", said Jeff Rooker (Lab. Birmingham, Perry Bar), was looking for weapons. Ridley had not exercised the necessary vigilance.

Finally I looked down at Mr Ridley's Labour Shadow, Gordon Brown, waving his arms and castigating ministers.

... Slackness and complacency of almost criminal dimensions ... Could affect regional stability ... world stability?

For the course, I thought the usual hot air. "Over the top," retorted Ridley. Exactly.

Or was it? Through our brains flashed confusing images: eight huge steel tubes impounded, 44 already in Iraq; a "large-calibre armament, albeit of a scale outside anything previously experienced." Ridley had said — "which may be used for hostile purposes." Brown

had hazarded, his laser-like intellect going straight to target; Mossad, the Israeli Intelligence Service, in secret contact with HM Customs; the late Dr Gerard Colla of "Space Research Corporation" with a bullet in his back in Brussels in London; an elderly gentleman at the Dispatch Box stumbling over his answers and fumbling anxiously with his glasses ... civil servants peering, concerned, from their oaken box.

Around the room, black camera emplacements whirled discreetly as the machines raked across the Chamber. A strange fellow in a white wig sat impassive on a curious green throne with a four-poster canopy above him, like a camouflaged rocket launcher. Microphones on thin wires dangled in the air, everywhere.

Above, eight vast white mushrooms, illuminated from within by a brilliant, acid-white light, hung suspended. They were (we have been assured) television lights.

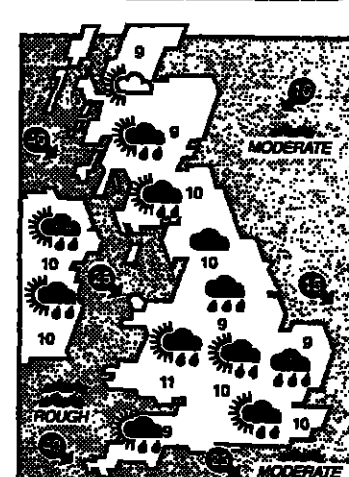
Or were they?

Matthew Parris

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Lighting-up time
London	6.04 pm to 5.55 am
Bristol	6.13 pm to 6.05 am
Edinburgh	6.27 pm to 5.55 am
Manchester	6.17 pm to 5.59 am
Penzance	6.22 pm to 6.20 am

YESTERDAY

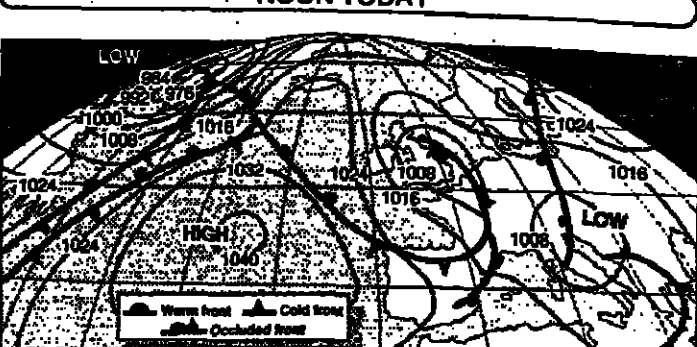
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	10-15	W	100	
Birmingham	10-15	W	100	
Blackpool	10-15	W	100	
Bristol	10-15	W	100	
Cardiff	10-15	W	100	
Edinburgh	10-15	W	100	
Exeter	10-15	W	100	
Gloucester	10-15	W	100	
London	10-15	W	100	
Manchester	10-15	W	100	

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	MT	PM	MT	Location	AM	MT	PM	MT
London Bridge	6.37	5.8	6.48	5.5	Liverpool	6.13	7.1	7.25	6.9
Abbeystead	6.27	5.2	6.48	5.5	Newcastle	6.11	1.9	4.41	1.9
Avonmouth	1.10	9.4	1.52	9.3	Manchester	7.00	3.8	7.29	3.8
Belfast	6.05	2.8	7.04	2.8	Midland Haven	12.51	5.0	—	—
Cardiff	12.55	8.9	1.57	8.8	Newquay	—	—	12.26	4.9
Devonport	12.21	4.3	1.07	4.1	Penryn	—	—	1.48	2.2
Dover	6.15	4.9	6.57	5.0	Portsmouth	—	—	1.22	2.6
Falmouth	7.05	3.7	6.00	3.8	Southampton	6.23	3.6	7.12	3.7
Glasgow	6.30	3.0	6.50	3.0	Swansea	6.03	5.6	7.02	4.7
Hull	1.05	5.4	1.27	5.5	Torquay	12.56	7.0	—	—
London	12.33	6.6	1.18	6.4	Wexford	11.04	4.2	—	—
London	1.23	4.4	1.57	4.5	Wexford-on-Sea	6.24	3.2	6.54	3.1
London	6.53	4.2	10.53	4.3	Wexford-on-Sea	—	—	—	—

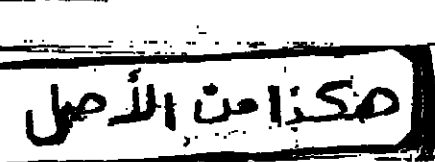
Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1990. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London EC2A 4DF. Registered at the Post Office.



THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

25

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6360 (+0.0045)
W German mark
2.7378 (-0.0011)
Exchange Index
86.7 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1732.6 (-3.7)
FT-SE 100
2205.9 (-8.6)
USM (Datastream)
139.25 (-0.92)
Market report, page 28

Extra time
won by
Hoylake

AXA-MIDI Assurances and Hoylake Investments have won two rounds in the battle for extra time to regroup their attack on BAT Industries and Farmers, its US insurance group. Texas and Oregon insurance regulators have allowed them up to two months to modify their offers.

The changes will be designed to head off objections which prompted California to reject both companies as owners of Farmers last week. BAT has lodged objections to all the requests for more time.

Paper group, page 26

Trans World up

Trans World Communications (formerly the Miss World Group) reports pre-tax profits of £4.56 million (£2.53 million) on a turnover of £12.7 million (£8.41 million) for 1989. A final dividend of 8p makes 12p (10p).

Tempus, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2751.35 (-14.42)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average 29249.08 (+787.46)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 3052.35 (+31.91)
Amsterdam
CBS Tendency 120.2 (+1.1)
Springe AG 150.2 (+1.2)
Frankfurt DAX 1886.76 (+34.58)
Brussels
General 6122.04 (-18.48)
Paris CAC 353.79 (+0.72)
Zurich SMI 592.3 (-0.28)
London
FT-30 Share 1732.6 (-3.7)
FT-100 2205.9 (-8.6)
FT Gold Mines 1155.11 (-2.29)
FT Fixed Interest 85.55 (-0.14)
FT Govt Securities 75.58 (-0.32)
Recent Issues
Closing prices
Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:
Graham House 3850 (+20)
Hammerson A 761p (+10p)
Waco 325p (+11p)
News Corp 523p (+40p)
Telecom 458p (+8p)
FALLS:
Finlan Group 181p (-13p)
Barclays 550p (-15p)
Lloyds 251p (-13p)
Nat West 338p (-13p)
Boisford 955p (-30p)
Micro Focus 567p (-40p)
UK Land 345p (-40p)
Harvey & Thompson 450p (-10p)
Frogmore 350p (-20p)
Wellcome 675p (-11p)
Brent Walker 272p (-14p)
Cairn Comm 450p (-50p)
Gloco 785p (-15p)
Commercial Union 482p (-11p)
Compass Group 310p (-8p)
Bearing prices
1957
SEAQ Volume 352.5m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/8-15 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/4-14 1/2%
UK Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7 7/8-7 7/4%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 5/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.6360
DM: £2.7378
Sfr: £2.4585
FF: £6.5620
Yen: £159.10
Yen: £159.10
ECU: £1.74403
SDR: £2.78814
SDR: £2.78814

GOLD

London: Gold
AM \$374.70
Close \$375.00-375.50 (£228.75-229.25)
New York
Cormex \$374.80-375.30*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$16.45 bbl (\$1.27)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.35
Austria Sch 20.25
Belgium Fr 13.35
Canada Cdn 1.70
Denmark Kr 16.80
Eurozone 1.00
France Fr 6.56
Germany DM 2.25
Hong Kong \$ 10.50
Italy Lit 2000
Japan Yen 160
Netherlands Gld 2.25
Portugal Esc 200
South Africa Rand 4.60
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Swk 10.40
Switzerland Fr 2.25
Taiwan Nts 20.00
UK £ 1.00
Yugoslavia Dnr 135.00

Rise in labour costs points to stagflation

By Colin Nairn, Economics Correspondent

A FRESH jump in unit labour costs as output in manufacturing industry suffered an unexpected fall fed fears that the economy is entering a period of stagflation — sharply rising inflation and stagnant growth.

Official data showed a seasonally-adjusted annual rise of 6.8 per cent in wages per unit of manufacturing output in the three months to February, up from 6.3 per cent in the three months to January.

Productivity growth slowed to 1.2 per cent from 1.8 per cent.

Factory output in the three months to February was 0.3 per cent down on the previous three months, partially due to labour disputes in the car and aerospace industries, but was 1.1 per cent above the same period last year.

Though the output figures, and preliminary data showing retail sales falling 1.4 per cent between February and March, provided more evidence that high interest rates have slowed the economy, rising unit labour costs confirm persistent inflationary pressures the Government was hoping to ease.

The Government has repeatedly stressed the importance of bringing unit wage growth into line with those abroad, if unemployment is not to start rising again as counter-inflationary policy brakes the economy.

The number of jobs in manufacturing, which has been falling for some time, dropped by another 16,000 last month. Despite this, pay

demand have not been moderated and average earnings climbed to 9.5 per cent in February.

Mr Stephen Hannah, head of economic research at NatWest Capital Markets, saw stagflation and "scary inflation numbers" in the latest indicators, demonstrating that the Government had not dampened inflation expectations.

"There is absolutely no credibility in its declared policy of bearing down on inflation," he said.

Given the prospect of higher West German and Japanese interest rates, he expected the Government would have to study carefully the option of raising interest rates, rather than face further sterling depreciation.

Mr Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS-Phillips & Drew, read the figures as confirmation that 1990 is a "write-off" for the Government, with a mild recession and headline inflation stuck at about an annual 8 to 9 per cent.

As companies started to feel the pain and shed labour, he expected the focus to switch to making the consumer undertake the necessary adjustment.

The drop in retail sales last month after a 2.2 per cent rise in February reflected lower sales across the board and painted much the same picture as that given in the latest Confederation of British Industry survey — the Christmas "boomlet" was over. The City had expected a fall of 0.9 per cent.

The Central Statistical Office pointed out, however, that March sales were a little above the average of the November

to January period. In value terms, average weekly sales were running at £2.30 billion last month, after £2.28 billion in February and £2.27 billion in January.

While some economists remain to be convinced about the curbing of the consumer as average earnings rise, the output data showed the economy close to recession. CSO statisticians said the underlying trend in manufacturing was "flat, probably still rising a little."

Data for the production industries, distorted by bad weather that affected energy output, showed a 1.2 per cent fall in output in the latest three months. Compared with the same period last year, output was up only 0.6 per cent.

In the production industries, output fell by 0.7 per cent in February, after an 0.5 per cent decline the previous month. The fall in manufacturing was 0.4 per cent following an 0.1 per cent January rise.

Productivity for the whole economy saw a seasonally-adjusted annual fall of 0.3 per cent in the final quarter of last year, against an 0.5 per cent drop in the previous quarter, unit wage costs rose at an annual 9 per cent after 10.2 per cent.

In manufacturing, unit wage costs rose at an annual 7.2 per cent in February, after 7.7 per cent in January, and productivity growth rose to an annual 1 per cent from 0.4 per cent, but the improvements were eliminated in the more reliable three-month comparisons.

Comment, page 27

US deficit lowest for six years

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

THE US trade deficit fell to its lowest monthly level in six years in February, the Commerce Department said.

The shortfall narrowed by 30.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$6.49 billion from a revised \$9.32 billion in January, comfortably exceeding market expectations of a \$2.2 billion fall.

Imports fell sharply, from \$41.26 billion in January to \$38.12 billion, with sharply reduced oil imports accounting for about \$1.2 billion of that fall. Freezing weather in December caused a surge in oil imports in January.

Exports, meanwhile, fell only marginally to \$31.63 billion, a drop of just 1 per cent on January's record level.

Mr Michael Boskin, the chief White House economic adviser, gave a warning against reading too much into a single month's figures, but commented: "The overall situation in the US trade picture has been improving for some time."

He stressed the particularly sharp import, variant in trade with Japan, with which the US has an annual deficit of \$49 billion. The shortfall had fallen 27 per cent in the first two months of this year, compared to last, he said.

Exports had soared by 24 per cent, and imports fallen by 4 or 5 per cent.

Industry statistics 'disaster' blamed on Government

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

STRONG criticism of the Government's cut in the collection of detailed industrial statistics was made at a seminar organized by the Statistics Users' Council yesterday under the chairmanship of Sir Douglas Wess, the former Treasury Permanent Secretary.

According to Mr Ian Maclean, the chairman of the council, those attending the seminar agreed that the present position was a disaster and would weaken the competitive capacity of British companies. Mr Maclean said Britain was now the only major industrialized country which did not collect production statistics at the level of detail wanted. Industry could no longer examine in detail

the level of import penetration, export performance, productivity, market share and home demand.

As part of the reforms which followed the Pickford report, the Department of Trade and Industry last year cut back on short-term, dis-aggregated production statistics. A survey earlier this year suggested that some companies would be prepared to pay for their collection themselves.

A spokesman for the Central Statistical Office said yesterday: "Obviously we will take an interest in what the Statistics Users' Council has to say. The Government has to strike a balance between the desirability of statistics and the burden on business of collecting them."

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, recently asked Sir Jack Hibbert, the CSO's director, for a report on measures of growth in demand in 1987-88, which failed to give early warning of the present difficulties of the economy.

Though this is not likely to cover the microeconomic statistics of which the council is complaining, it could be the occasion for a wider-ranging look at policy on statistics.

About 70 trade associations and companies attended the seminar.

Wess: ex-Treasury chief

Wess: ex-Treasury chief

THF seeks Moscow deal cash



A salute in London yesterday for a buoyant Rocco Forte, who is setting his sights on Moscow and Warsaw

TRUSTHOUSE Forte is seeking fresh finance for its planned flagship hotel in Moscow, overlooking the Kremlin, after an earlier financing deal fell through because of the tightening economic climate, said the chief executive, Mr Rocco Forte (Martin Waller writes).

He was announcing pre-tax profits of £291 million in the 15 months to end-January from THF, which has shifted its year-end date. The group made £260 million before tax in the 12 months to end-January and £232 million in the previously reported financial year, to end-October 1988.

THF is paying a final dividend of 7.16p on the July 2, making a total for the year of 8.4p (9.66p). In addition, shareholders were paid a 1p special dividend with the interim.

term to reflect the changing year-end date.

Mr Forte said a partial property revaluation, the first in a three-year cycle, threw up a surplus of £384 million, with net assets per share rising from 287p to 345p. This compared with a price in the market 7p lower at 254p yesterday.

In Moscow, THF was preparing to refurbish an old shell dating from Czarist days, the Hotel Bucharest on an island opposite the Kremlin, in a joint venture with the local soviet, and had already signed a protocol agreement. Also, plans to refurbish the Bristol Hotel in Warsaw were "close to coming to fruition", he said.

"Dealing with any of these countries is a very long-winded affair. There's huge demand for the right kind of

hotel accommodation in those cities." THF is still negotiating a joint venture with Eni, the Italian state energy corporation which runs the Agip chain of hotels, said Mr Forte. He played down suggestions from Italy that the deal was virtually concluded.

Analysts believe Continental Europe, which provided only 13 per cent of trading profits in the year to end-January, is where THF must concentrate its efforts in future.

To that end the group has signed a partnership deal with Repsol, the state-owned Spanish petrol retail chain, to build 100 of its Travelodge and Little Chef outlets in Spain over the next five years. Each party is putting in £1.5 million in new share capital and a maximum of £15 million in

borrowings, and government grants are available in some areas to cover as much as 70 per cent of the building cost.

THF encountered difficult trading in its provincial hotels in this country in the second half. "Our reaction may have been a little slow in adjusting to the sales slowdown," said Mr Forte.

There has been little progress on the Savoy front since the outbreak of peace between THF and the luxury hotel chain late last year. "It's early days yet — we've just got on to the board and we're being very polite to each other," said Mr Forte. "I don't foresee a joint marketing scheme in the short term, but who knows a few miles down the road?"

Tempus, page 26

Bank tries to buy in B&C stake

By Angela Mackay

SINGER & Friedlander, the merchant bank, is trying to buy in 10.4 per cent of its shares held by British & Commonwealth, the troubled financial services group which has said it will write off £550 million on Atlantic Computers, its computer leasing subsidiary.

Singer & Friedlander said it approached B&C six months ago and had held intermittent talks since then.

B&C's shares were suspended at 53p, implying a market worth of about £200 million for the entire group.

Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, said the company must raise £750 million from asset sales by mid-1991 to satisfy bankers.

B&C has put its two banks up for sale and announced it is looking for buyers for the property business.

Last month, the company sold Gartmore, the fund manager, for £130 million.

At yesterday's closing price of 60p, B&C's stake in Singer & Friedlander is worth about £13.7 million.

Price Waterhouse, the accountant, has been appointed administrator to two of the subsidiaries of Atlantic Computers, the company which B&C placed in the hands of an administrator — also Price Waterhouse — on Tuesday.

Mr Nick Kennedy Scott, Atlantic's former chairman, resigned from the boards of Atlantic and B&C last month, and Mr David McCormick, chief executive of Atlantic, was suspended on March 28.

L&G may sell Saatchi HQ

By Matthew Bond

LEGAL & General, the insurance company, is in talks to sell its West End property flagship, Landsdowne House, in Berkeley Square, London, the headquarters of Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency.

Landsdowne House was completed in 1988 and let at the then record rent of £62.50 a sq ft to Saatchi & Saatchi. But much of the 150,000 sq ft building has now been sub-let, first to Glaxo, the drug company, and then to AT&T, the American telephone com-

pany. Existing leases would continue.

Some of the sub-lets in the building, which is seen as a barometer of the West End property market, have achieved rents of £64 a sq ft.

While confirming that talks were taking place, L&G refused to comment on reports that the building was to be sold to Japanese interests for more than £220 million.

Such a price would indicate a yield in the region of 4.25 per cent on L&G's rent roll of more than £9 million. Lands-

downe House is the sort of modern building that would appeal to international investors interested in acquiring "landmark" or "trophy" buildings in the world's capitals.

While the Japanese would be firm favourites to buy the British building, American investors have also shown an interest in such buildings.

Prudential Insurance of America launched a \$2 billion global fund this year with an aim of buying buildings worth between \$200-\$300 million.

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SHARE SERVICE

Analysts say franchise holders may find bids hazardous

TV now no licence to print money

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

BOOM times are far from guaranteed for new television franchise holders.

Existing ITV companies and potential Channel 3 franchise holders have been issued with a gloomy warning by the Coopers Deloitte media group, Britain's largest accounting and business advisory firm.

Up to a quarter of the existing 16 commercial TV franchise areas will be lost by incumbents and the new Channel 3 operators will be less profitable than existing ITV stations, the report said.

Far from being a "licence to print money," the new Channel 3 franchises, which come into operation in 1993, will suffer financially in three different areas — paying the independent Television Commission a percentage of their net advertising revenue, the cash bid for

their franchise, and the decline in Channel 3's share of advertising caused by new terrestrial and satellite TV channels.

The advantages that existing ITV companies currently enjoy is unlikely to be sufficient to ensure they will retain their licence to broadcast, according to the report, *Investing in UK Television*.

"At no time, since commercial television began in the UK in 1955, has there been such an opportunity for new companies to enter the market. We expect that up to 25 per cent of television franchise areas will be awarded to non-incumbent applicants." Mr George Eccles, chairman of the Coopers Deloitte media group, said. "In particular, there will be significant investment from outside the UK." EC companies will be looking to take advantage of the relaxation in the ownership rules "either by bidding outright for franchises or by

joining with existing ITV companies." But valuing franchises before submitting a bid will be "extremely hazardous."

Mr Kip Meek, head of the media group's franchise unit, said: "Several successful applicants will overbid in fear of underbidding and losing out, but then they find that lack of profitability seriously threatens their survival."

He added: "In any event, Channel 3 franchises are unlikely to be the sole source of revenue for the franchise holders of the 1990s. Other interests will be held in related media or overseas and will become as important, if not more important, revenue earners than the licence itself."

Despite the gloomy warning for potential investors in mainstream commercial television, the Coopers Deloitte media group is nevertheless optimistic about cable television and believes penetration will increase in the 1990s.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ansett chooses Rolls for £60m engine deal

ANSETT Worldwide Aviation, the Australian aircraft-leasing group, has chosen Rolls-Royce RB211-535E4 engines for a newly ordered additional 10 Boeing 757 airliners with options for two more. The order, including spares likely to be needed over the life of the aircraft, is worth more than £60 million to the Derby-based aero engine maker. With the new order, Ansett will have 38 Rolls-Royce-powered 757s, plus the two options.

Other operators of the Boeing twin-jet have also been turning in increasing numbers to Rolls-Royce, which is the choice of more than 70 per cent of users of the aircraft. Last year Rolls-Royce had firm orders for 178 engines with another 36 on the options list.

Acquisitions boost Aspen Dinkie Heel lifts payout

ASPEN Communications, the USM specialist printing group, said contributions from acquisitions helped annual pre-tax profits to end-December rise 21 per cent to £6.02 million on turnover ahead 55.5 per cent to £58.7 million. The final dividend is improved to 5.4p (4.5p), making 7.8p (6.5p) for the year. Earnings per share rose from 33.2p to 32.9p.

DINKIE Heel, the shoe component manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits from £283,000 to £418,000 in the year to end-December. Group turnover increased from £3.55 million to £7.95 million. Earnings per share rose by 26 per cent to 2.33p. The final dividend is improved to 0.6p (0.35p), making 0.95p (0.57p) for the year.

Boost for Geers shares

GEERS Gross, the quoted advertising agency, saw its shares go ahead 5p to 30p on news of an increase in pre-tax profits from £479,000 to £706,000 in the year to end-December. The full-year dividend is maintained at 1p, but Mr Robert Gross, the chairman, said there would be a return to higher dividends and a twice-yearly payment this year, which he forecast would show a greater percentage increase in profits than 1989's 47 per cent. Last year the company won 15 new accounts — none of which had an impact on that year's figures — and lost none, Mr Gross added.

T&S soars to £6.6m ADT raises Christies role

PRE-TAX profits at T&S Stores, the confectionery, tobacco and newspaper group, rose from £3.03 million to £6.64 million in the year to end-December on turnover up 52 per cent to £197.1 million. Adjusted eps are up to 10.5p (9.89p). The final dividend rises to 2.5p (1.625p), making 4p (2.625p) for the year.

ADT group, the conglomerate with interests in securities, has lifted its stake in Christies International, the auction house, to 15.1 per cent of the issued share capital and 13.4 per cent of total issued capital. ADT does not plan to make an offer for all of Christies, whose shares rose 3p to 334p. Stock market, page 28

Setback for T&N bid

T&N, the engineering and motor components group, has hit a stumbling block in its \$190 million recommended offer for JP Industries, the US vehicle parts company. The US Federal Trade Commission has requested additional information in connection with its \$17.30-a-share tender offer.

T&N said it and JP will comply with the request "expeditiously." It has extended its tender offer to May 14 from April 26 because of the development. The deal is to be financed by a rights issue to raise a net £127 million. T&N will also take on debt of \$176 million.

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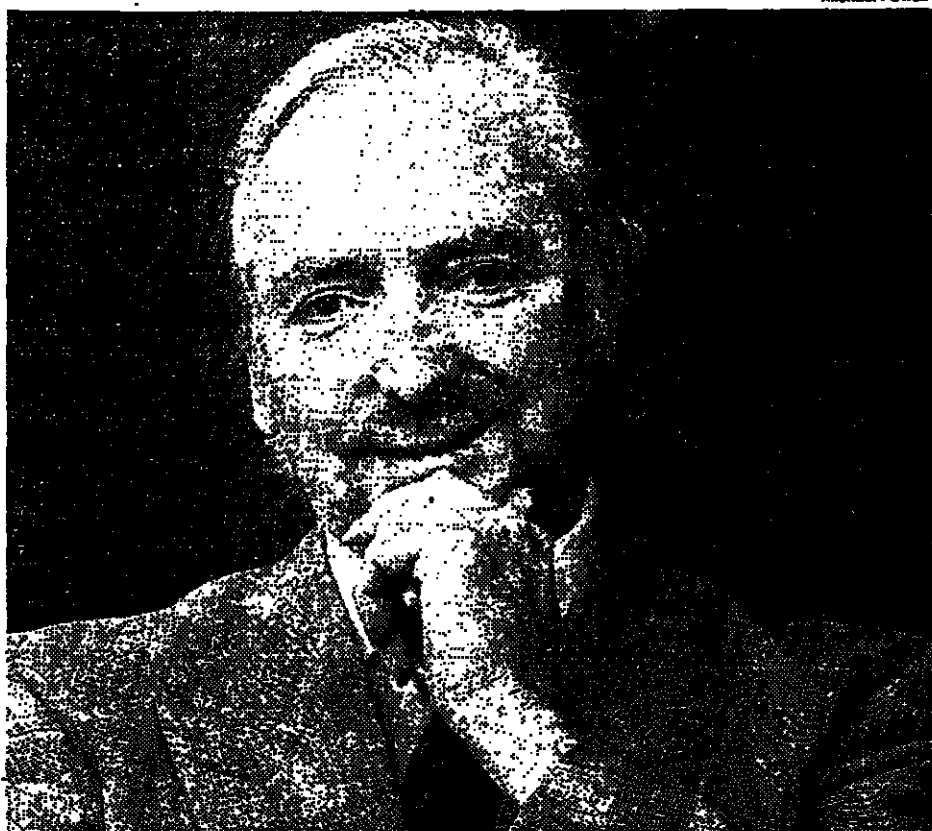
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TEMPUS

Room to improve at THF hotels



Carrying the Miss World banner into its fortieth year: Owen Oyston, the group chief executive of Trans World Communications, yesterday

MR ROCCO Forte, chief executive of Trusthouse Forte, was displaying suitable humility yesterday as he admitted his executives had taken their eyes off the ball and missed the downturn in the provincial hotels market by a crucial couple of months last summer.

Perhaps their attention was distracted by the unaccountable and apparently unfounded bid speculation around then which pushed the shares above 350p at one stage. The inevitable adjustment has come since then, coinciding in the past couple of months with a downgrading for the hotels sector as a whole.

THF, after a change in its financial year-end to reduce seasonality, unveiled pre-tax profits largely in line with expectations at £291 million for the 15 months to end-January. A figure of £260 million for the year to that date compares with £232 million for the 12 months to end-October 1988.

The laggard was hotels with a rise in trading profits, before higher interest charges, of 10 per cent year-on-year. This compares with 27 per cent from contract catering, still finding extra work from the NHS, and 22 per cent from public catering and restaurants.

Analysts have great hopes for Mr Alan Hearn, who took over as managing director of hotels at the start of the year. There is much streamlining to be done within the division's structure and opportunities to prune labour costs if demand continues to slacken.

THF says the leisure market held up well, but harder times affected the corporate and conference side. The luxury

London market performed well, although there must be doubts about Japanese visitors this summer. The US continues to do poorly, and THF is cautious about forecasting any immediate sharp improvement.

The shares followed the market, marked higher before drifting lower to end 7p down at 254p. Pre-tax profits of £285 million this year would put the shares on a multiple of about 9, a little below the sector average, while a 15 per

cent dividend increase suggests a prospective yield of 5.8. Any flight to quality in the battered hotels sector in coming months and the shares could see some support.

Austin Reed

Austin Reed would do well to keep an eye on events at Aquascutum, where rebel shareholders are attempting to win full voting rights for the A shares. Poor trading performances can be just the trigger

for action by disgruntled shareholders, and Reed's two-tier equity structure would look even more vulnerable should the Aquascutum board be overpowered.

With 80 per cent of its business in menswear, which traditionally fares worse than women's and children's clothing when times are hard, Reed saw pre-tax profits fall from £8.1 million to £6.9 million in the year to January, their lowest for three years. The trading profit was maintained

at £9.9 million but included £900,000 of property profits. Turnover rose from £78.9 million to £84.9 million. Earnings fell from 18.7p to 17.3p and the final dividend is up from 6p to 6.5p, making 9.5p, against 9p.

UK sales increased by 4 per cent with womenswear up 8 per cent. The interest charge rose from £1.76 million to £3 million and the group has cut stock levels and capital spending. Gearing is about 23 per cent and should come down to nearer 11 per cent.

Although the group has run an eye over Wetherall, the rainwear manufacturer, now in receivership, it has decided not to buy it and there are no plans for further retail acquisitions.

Reed appears to be doing the right things to lessen the effects of the consumer squeeze and looks set to make about £6.5 million before property profits, according to Kleinwort Benson. That puts the A shares, up 5p at 150p, on a p/e of 10.

If Austin Reed is forced to abandon its two-tier share structure, it could not fail to help the share price. The shares are a strong hold.

Trans World

Communications

THE vital financial statistics of Trans World Communications (formerly Miss World Group) may appear pleasing, but there is — as yet — little reason to be carried away. Pre-tax profits for 1989 rose from £2.53 million to £4.56 million and turnover from £8.41 million to £12.72 million.

However, the results have been greatly helped by eight

and a half months of Piccadilly Radio, whose precise contribution Trans World will not divulge and, yet at the same time, progress was restrained by some inherited problems from Piccadilly.

Advertising revenue from group radio stations jumped by 80.7 per cent, but again the numbers are not disclosed and Trans World is rightly cautious about the outlook.

After the doubled interim dividend, to 4p a share (largely to reduce the disparity), the final is held at 8p, payable on June 20, to make 12p (10p).

The Miss World contest, which suffered in the first half from the decision by Thames Television not to renew its screening contract, was held abroad for the first time and contributed £248,000 compared with £789,000.

This year marks the fortieth year of the Miss World pageant and next year the US market will be open again to the group, so better results should be on the boards.

Preliminary details of the balance sheet suggest net borrowings up from £1 million to £3.5 million — and set to rise to £6.5 million — and a negative £3 million of tangible assets.

Trans World is hoping that the Broadcasting Bill will open the way to move further into radio station companies, which, it believes, are "an excellent investment area."

The group could see pre-tax profits of £5.6 million this year, but the market's view of radio shares is hardly as enthusiastic.

The prospective p/e of 8.3 at yesterday's 283p, up 15p, suggests that Trans World has a bigger credibility gap than most in this sector.

BAT paper group may come to market with £1.5bn tag

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

WIGGINS Teape Appleton (WTA), the BAT Industries merged paper group due for a Stock Exchange listing on June 1, will have a strong financial base offering the chance of expansion, according to Mr Stephen Walls, WTA's chairman and chief executive.

He gave his views while setting out the capital structure planned for WTA, which is being demerged from BAT in the wake of the group's flotation of the Argos stores chain. It is part of BAT's defensive policy against a threatened £13.4 billion takeover by Sir James Goldsmith's Hoylake.

WTA will be the biggest British-owned paper company and the fourth largest in Europe. Analysts' assessments of WTA's value vary between £1.2 billion and £1.5 billion, with the higher figure reflecting the possibility of takeover. It should make the FT-SE 100.

Under the intended financial structure, WTA would have had about £670 million in shareholder funds at the end of last year, taking into account capital adjustments to be made before the demerger of WTA from BAT.

WTA would have shown at the year-end a net indebtedness of about £170 million, excluding about £45 million of trade debts financed off balance sheet.

In the year to end-December, WTA had a turnover of

£1.5 billion and a trading profit of £201 million, including its share of trading profits of associated companies.

Mr Walls said: "Progress towards demerger is proceeding smoothly. Based on this level of debt, WTA will have a strong financial base from which we can expand the business after demerger."

Mr Walls' priorities for WTA will include organic growth, but possible acquisitions will also be considered in order to strengthen the drive for such growth. He believes there are synergies which can be exploited between the US-based Appleton and Wiggins Teape.

However, he realizes that WTA could become a takeover target because it operates at the high value-added end of the paper business. WTA will be the world's biggest producer of carbonless paper, and Europe's leading manufacturer of thermal papers, typically used in fax machines.

Listing details for WTA are due out on May 10, and BAT meetings on the demerger are scheduled for May 31. There will be an issue of free shares to BAT holders for the demerger. WTA is to establish a London headquarters. Appleton will continue to deal with its home market, while Wiggins Teape, still to be operationally-based at Basingstoke, Hampshire, will continue to focus on Europe.



Stephen Walls: smooth progress towards demerger

Receiver is appointed for E&G

EQUITY & General, the motor dealer and financial services outfit previously known as Emray, has brought in a receiver to administer its affairs, excluding the motor division.

A terse statement from the company, which was not available for comment, said that at the board's request Barclays Bank had appointed the receiver. In February, the company put its finance division up for sale, warning that significant losses there made it unlikely there would be more than nominal trading profits in 1989. The shares were suspended at 20p late last month.

Prestwick payout held despite drop

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at Prestwick Holdings, the Ayr printed circuit board manufacturer, were more than halved, from £1.11 million to £517,000, in the six months to end-January. Turnover rose 6 per cent to £13.6 million.

Prestwick gave a warning last December of a substantial reduction in first-half profits because of the break in British Telecom's order programme. Earnings per share fell from 3.4p to 1.5p, with fully-diluted earnings down from 3.1p to 1.6p. However, the interim dividend is maintained at

0.5p. Telecommunications used to account for 27 per cent of orders but now accounts for only 6 per cent.

Mr Alistair McKie, a director, said orders for the computer, facsimile and photocopier sectors, which now make up 74 per cent of orders, were "gaining ground."

The company said that the replacement of BT (telecommunications) business had been achieved, although it is unlikely that full-year profits would match last year's.

The shares lost 1p to 32p on the news.

Profits fall at Densitron

DENSITRON International, the electronic components

maker, said pre-tax profits fell from £1.63 million to £1.11 million in the year to end-December. Turnover edged ahead from £22.9 million to £23 million. Earnings fell from 5.49p to 3.6p but the final dividend is maintained at 1.65p, making 2.35p.

BBA wins order

BBA Group, the engineering company, has received a \$52 million order from Saab-Scania, the Swedish aircraft manufacturer, for landing gear for the new 50-seater Saab 2000 airliner. The landing gear will be developed and produced by BBA's AP Precision Hydraulics subsidiary.

Runciman soars as Avena lifts bid

By Melinda Wittstock

SHARES in Walter Runciman, the shipping and security equipment group fighting its second hostile bid in 18 months, soared 55p to 638p after the Swedish company Avena increased its cash offer from 520p to 625p a share.

Runciman rejected the increased offer, up nearly £10 million to £57.4 million, as "wholly inadequate," particularly in light of its better-than-expected profits forecast for 1990. But Profits forecast, the institutional fund which invested in Runciman after Telfos Holdings' failed bid, accepted the new offer in respect of its 5 per cent holding. Avena, which bought 28 per cent of

Runciman from Telfos before launching its bid, now speaks for almost 40 per cent of the equity. The Runciman family holds about 30 per cent.

The new offer represents an exit price-earnings multiple of 11.8 times, against the shipping industry average of 11.

Mr Garry Runciman, chairman, said shareholders should reject "this attempt to buy their company on the cheap."

He added he would write to them after Avena's final offer document is posted tomorrow to explain his reasoning "in more detail."

Runciman has forecast 1990 profits up not less than 34 per cent to £7.5 million.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch/g (%)	Yearly ch/g (%)	Daily ch/g (%)	Yearly ch/g (%)	Daily ch/g (%)	Yearly ch/g (%)
The World	711.6	0.2	-15.6	0.6	-11.5	0.6	-14.4
(free)	135.9	0.2	-15.7	0.6	-11.6	0.6	-14.5
EAPE	1227.8	0.8	-21.2	0.9	-16.0	1.2	-20.1
(free)	126.0	0.8	-21.5	0.8	-16.3	1.2	-20.3
Europe	740.4	-0.6	-2.7	-0.5	-3.1	-0.2	-1.3
(free)	159.6	-0.6	-2.4	-0.8	-3.0	-0.2	-1.0
Nth America	573.7	-0.8	-4.5	-0.4	-3.1	-0.3	-3.2
Nordic	1504.4	0.4	-3.2	0.5	-3.7	0.8	-2.0
(free)	228.7	0.4	-3.5	0.6	-3.9	0.8	-3.0
Pacific	2713.1	1.9	-31.6	2.0	-23.8	2.3	-30.6
Far East	3917.8	2.0	-32.3	2.1	-24.3	2.4	-31.3
Australia	303.6	0.1	-12.6	0.1	-8.8	0.5	-11.3
Austria	2140.0	-1.0	-44.0	-0.7	-44.8	-0.6	-46.1
Belgium	917.1	-0.6	-8.8	-0.3	-7.9	-0.1	-5.5
Canada	517.4	-1.2	-13.8	-1.1	-12.1	-0.8	-12.6
Denmark	1942.1	-0.1	2.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	3.4
Finland	103.0	-0.5	-10.7	-0.5	-10.9	-0.1	-8.4
(free)	141.1	-0.7	-5.5	-0.6	-5.6	-0.2	-4.0
France	843.7	-1.3	-4.3	-1.1	-3.1	-0.9	-5.8
Germany	972.3	-1.4	-6.0	-1.2	-6.5	-1.0	-7.5
Hong Kong	2364.0	0.4	6.6	0.8	7.9	0.8	8.1
Italy	395.4	-0.4	-2.6	-0.2	-1.1	0.0	4.0
Japan	4106.0	2.1	-33.4	2.2	-25.3	2.5	-32.5
Netherlands	909.4	0.3	-3.8	0.5	-3.6	0.7	-2.4
New Zealand	87.0	-0.9	-15.6	-0.6	-12.0	-0.5	-14.4
Norway	1544.2	-0.4	-15.0	-0.2	-15.5	0.0	16.7
(free)	269.8	-0.4	-15.5	-0.2	-15.9	0.0	17.2
Singapore	1946.9	-0.5	-2.4	-0.1	-2.1	-0.1	-1.0
Spain	212.4	0.2	-10.3	0.2	-11.6	0.6	-9.0
Sweden	1813.0	0.9	-8.0	1.0	-8.2	1.3	-6.7
(free)	231.4	1.6	-4.4	1.7	-4.8	2.0	-3.0
Switzerland	864.3	-0.4	-5.5	-0.3	-7.5	0.0	-4.1
(free)	132.5	-0.4	-5.1	-0.3	-7.1	0.0	-3.7
UK	654.6	-0.4	-9.2	-0.4	-9.2	0.0	-7.9
USA	465.3	-0.7	-3.7	-0.3	-2.3	-0.3	-2.3

(ft) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Consortium poised to enter new mobile phone market

Rabbit jumps out of Telepoint hat

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

BYPS, the Barclays Bank, Philips electronics and Shell consortium which is to operate one of Britain's four Telepoint networks, expects to start up its service by the early summer in a bid for what it believes will be a mass market for portable communications. The service is to be called Rabbit.

Research commissioned by BYPS from the Henley Centre for Forecasting suggests that more than 12 million Britons will be using some form of portable communication by 1995.

The research also shows that, although

business users will at first predominate, increasingly more general users will enter the picture.

Telepoint is primarily a one-way only system for making telephone calls when on the move and some in the industry have questioned how far it will survive after about five years.

That is when the new personal communications network (PCN) generation is developed to produce a digital competitor to the radio-based cellular systems currently in use.

BYPS argues that cellular and PCN systems will cater for the business market while Telepoint could still prosper as the entire portable commun-

ications field expands in line with the Henley forecast.

The survey suggests that the Telepoint operators will be seeing an annual turnover of £1 billion by 1995 as more than 3.5 million people spend just under £300 a year on the service.

One of the factors in producing a mass market for mobile communications will be the need felt by many women and older people for more flexible communications as personal security becomes an increasing worry, says the survey.

A more mobile population will also mean a greater need for telephone communication with members of a family and friends, the report suggests.

US law threatens BTR hopes of quick victory

From John Deric, New York

BTR's chances of a quick victory in its \$1.6 billion takeover bid for Norton diminished with the passing of a law by the Massachusetts government preventing wholesale board changes.

Under the law, signed by Governor Michael Dukakis, board changes are possible only every year, with just one-third of the board positions open at each election.

The legislation, which was rushed through to help Norton, effectively prevents BTR from winning board control at Norton at its annual meeting on April 26.

It also triggers two other

anti-takeover statutes in Massachusetts which effectively stop BTR from gaining full control of Norton without either board approval or 90 per cent of the Norton shares. BTR has claimed acceptance for 64 per cent of Norton.

A spokesman for BTR said: "The staggered board legislation does not diminish BTR's intention to proceed with the takeover."

He added that no increase in the \$75-a-share bid was being considered and that a constitutional challenge to the new legislation had not been ruled out. Norton has also lodged an appeal against last

week's court ruling which forced it to revert to the April 26 annual meeting date after the company had previously announced a two-month extension pending consideration of the BTR offer.

As things stand, BTR could win four of the 12 board seats at the April 26 meeting and then hope for a change of mind from the other board members or significant outside shareholder support to advance its takeover claims.

The US pension fund industry has recently signalled its hostility to anti-takeover laws in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Under the

Business Combination Statute in Massachusetts, if a company does not have board approval or 90 per cent of the shares in a company it cannot proceed with a merger for three years after the takeover was announced.

Under the Massachusetts Shareholder Control legislation, a company cannot vote more than 20 per cent of its shares unless it has 90 per cent of the shares or board approval.

Mr John Nelson, Norton's chairman and chief executive, welcomed the quick passage of the staggered board legislation.

Shearson loses record \$900m

From Our Correspondent New York

SHEARSON Lehman Hutton yesterday reported a record Wall Street loss of more than \$900 million after taking a \$630 million restructuring charge.

The first-quarter loss also included a \$120 million operating loss, based on a downturn in trading income and \$75 million in provisions to cover legal costs and bad loans for its subsidiary Boston Co.

But the news from Wall Street firms was not all bad with the largest US broker, Merrill Lynch, reporting first-quarter earnings of \$41.3 million compared with \$35.5 million last time. The results show the benefits of last year's restructuring which included the loss of 15,000 jobs. A \$395 million restructuring charge in the fourth quarter brought the 1989 loss for the firm to \$213 million.

Merrill said its revenues this year were down from \$2.8 billion to \$2.7 billion but costs were also down by 5 per cent to \$2.6 billion.

It said revenues from investment banking and interest and dividend income were down while trading commission and asset management fees increased slightly.

Salomon Brothers has also indicated it will show a strong profit improvement when it reports next week.

Shearson Lehman's problems have led to its parent company, American Express, injecting \$1.4 billion cash into the firm over the last three months and taking full control of its formerly 60 per cent-owned subsidiary.

Shearson, which is carrying bridging loans of \$600 million, is looking to sell the \$1.4 billion loan portfolio owned by its property division, Balcor, which is also dogged by potentially bad property loans.

The company also lost \$157 million because of a change in accounting policies in the quarter.

Shearson has cut staff by 2,000 this year. Earlier this week it said it was creating a world-wide equity division under the control of Mr Peter DeFuzzo and Mr Jack Rivkin.

COMMENT

The economic scissors pose a Major dilemma

It will have come as some relief to John Major that the unexpected recovery in the buoyancy of retail sales appears to have come to an abrupt end. The March retail sales figure, showing a bigger-than-expected 1.4 per cent fall after the freakish 2.2 per cent month-on-month rise in February, is less weighty than the more logical progression of the CBI distributive trades survey. But the message is the same and therefore strong.

If the prospect of doggedly buoyant consumer demand is no longer a serious question mark over policy, however, it has been replaced by a dilemma which is more serious because it is more intractable. The economic scissors between falling demand and output and rising pay is worsening.

The latest upward movement in the 12-month growth of earnings has come just at the moment when industrial output has started turning down over a broad range. The almost inevitable result is that the growth of unit wage costs in manufacturing — the best part of the economy — has accelerated to an unacceptable 6.8 per cent in the latest three months to February.

This basic underlying inflationary pressure is hard to counteract by productivity at a time of slack or falling output except through the early Eighties expedient of a real recession. The Chancellor must calculate that he cannot afford that politically, just as he cannot afford to gamble economically by stimulating an output recovery by easing interest rates much before the autumn.

He may well, therefore, get the recession anyway since he has little option meanwhile but to sit back, let things happen and hope that international interest rate movements and the vicissitudes of currency markets do not make things even worse. In practice, this may prove to be worse for the share markets and for the real economy than for the Government's political chances.

Underlying inflation may be intractable. But falling mortgage rates, lower poll taxes and a 1991 standstill on RPI-sensitive duties could easily bring the nominal rate of inflation almost as far below the underlying rate in the summer of 1991 as it has been above over the past few months.

Takeover poison warning

The latest Massachusetts anti-takeover law, which turns a company board into something akin to a local council that can turn over only a third of its members each year, is but another bizarre reaction at state level to the unpopular phenomenon of takeover bids.

Such laws have multiplied in a decentralized country where a high proportion of big companies have an important position in the communities where they are headquartered. The phenomenon could just as easily happen in Britain if democracy were as diverse and vibrant and may well, in any case, have been noted by those planning Labour policy.

Takeover bids are as unpopular in Britain as in the United States for only slightly different reasons. The local patriotism factor, which so signally failed to find an official response in the Rowntree case, will also grow as more bidders have foreign accents in the single European market.

Yet the consequence of such laws and company "poison pills" is clearly not as hoped. It seems to encourage a destructive adversarial approach rather than

genuine attempts to secure agreed deals. BTR, whose bid for Norton could be ensnared by Governor Dukakis, has developed a taste for hostile bids of late. But the distinctly tactless tactics of its Norton offer — first communicated via a telephone call at 6.15am — were dictated by the perceived need to see the bid battle in terms of a legal battle.

Such legal campaigns often merely extend the agony once, as in this case, the bidding company has secured provisional acceptance of a bid from a substantial majority of a company's shares. The likely result will still be a negotiated higher offer, now that the equally destructive alternative of the highly leveraged management buyout is overshadowed by America's junkheap.

The takeover industry, which has become the main means of increasing demand for shares to realize value, is at best an extremely inefficient mechanism that brings the free market into public disrepute. Laws simply designed to frustrate the expressed wishes of a company's shareholders just bring the law equally into disrepute, rather than addressing the underlying issue of supply and demand imbalances in the financial markets.

Tighter belts pinch Austin Reed

By Gillian Bowditch

AUSTIN Reed, the up-market menswear retailer, saw pre-tax profits for the year to January fall from £8.1 million to £6.9 million, their lowest for three years.

Mr Barry Reed, chairman, said that when family budgets are tight men buy fewer clothes than women.

Turnover rose from £78.9 million to £84.9 million and earnings per share fell from 18.7p to 17.3p. The final dividend is up from 6p to 6.5p, making 9.5p, up from 9p, for the year.

Mr Reed said he was concerned about the group of rebel shareholders at Agnecium, who are trying to enfranchise the non-voting shares.

"In countries like Switzerland numerous devices are used to protect family businesses and on the whole they are welcomed," he said.

He said the board looked at the possibility of enfranchising the non-voting Austin Reed shares from time to time but had no plans to do so in the near future.

The non-voting shares rose 5p to 150p.



Tempus, page 26

Feeling the spending squeeze: Barry Reed, chairman of Austin Reed, yesterday

Helical assets per share leap by 43%

By Matthew Bond

THE policy of buying in shares has paid off handsomely at Helical Bar, the property company which used to develop City fringe office blocks but is now 75 per cent invested in provincial industrial property.

Yesterday the chairman, Mr Michael Slade, revealed an increase in net assets per share of 43 per cent to 429p. This includes a £19.7 million revaluation of the group's trading profits.

During the year, Mr Slade said, the company had bought in about 12 per cent of the company's equity and would continue to buy if the shares continued to trade at a substantial discount to assets.

"We saw value at 350p, and we see even more value now," said Mr Slade, adding that the company currently had £30 million cash in the bank. The shares closed up 9p at 269p.

Helical Bar was the top-

performing property share of the 1980s but in common with other high flyers is finding the going in the 1990s a little tougher, especially as interest charges bite into gross profit.

Pre-tax profits rose by 19 per cent to £14.5 million in the year to January.

At the year end the company had a rent toll of £16.5 million, which is now close to covering interest payments.

Last year's interest charges of £18.7 million were three times those of the year before.

Mr Slade admits gearing, which he estimates is 120-130 per cent, is higher than he would like.

But he believes the company's stored-up rental value — its average rent is only £2 a sq ft — will increasingly cover interest charges.

A final dividend of 7.6p (5p) a share is being paid, making a total of 10p a share, an increase of 72 per cent.

Profits lifted 77% at new-look Rea

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

REA Brothers, the merchant bank, has started to prosper under its new management. Pre-tax profits in 1989 rose 77 per cent to £1.1 million.

Profits from the banking division rose by 42 per cent to £1.47 million, and losses in the asset management operation were more than halved to £242,000. The final dividend is level at 0.25p, to make an unchanged year's payout of 0.5p.

Rea has continued to restructure its businesses, selling its insurance broker and its travel agency.

The two disposals produced an extraordinary profit of £725,000, although the travel business made a further exceptional profit of £348,000 from compensation for moving out of its offices in the City.

The changes are being inspired by Mr Roger Parsons, who arrived as joint managing director in October 1988. He

has recruited a team of senior managers and restructured the bank's information systems at an estimated £1 million.

The core of the bank's profits still comes from the Channel Islands subsidiary, which manages the bulk of its £200 million deposits.

The new executives include Mr Christopher Norland, the former chief executive of Ifico, who is building Rea's corporate client list, specializing in smaller companies.

The bank is also planning to treble its funds under management within three years to bring it into profit.

It has targeted smaller company pension funds and two accounts have increased its funds by 30 per cent. The business however is expected to continue losing money this year.

Mr Parsons said: "We think there is a huge market out there for us."

McLean break in Scotland

THE attractions of the biggest and most blue-chip Japanese and European investment houses clearly pale into insignificance when compared with the little-known Edinburgh broking firm of Roderick Sutherland — at least as far as Ian McLean is concerned.

For McLean, aged 36, one-time head of sales at County NatWest WoodMac, and for a brief six months head of UK sales at Citicorp Savings, Vickers until the firm withdrew from the UK equity market this year — has turned down countless more lucrative and prestigious offers in favour of Sutherland.

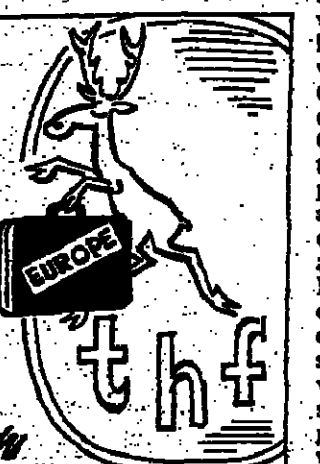
Formed just a year ago by Roddy Sutherland, ex-Ivory & Sime, Ken Brown, ex-Farmure Gordon, and Michael Healy, ex-Martin Currie Unit Trusts, McLean, who was born in Scotland, starts work at the firm on Monday and will be moving north of the border with his wife and two children. Asking if I knew anyone who wanted to buy a house in Kew, he admitted that he had taken "a substantial pay cut" but said: "The improvement in our quality of life is going to be pretty huge. And there's clearly a crunch coming in stockbroking. The volume of business, salaries and colossal cost structure of broking do not make sense. I feel that my pay cut is justified — it's essential for brokers to get back to lower salaries with a higher proportion of their income coming from bonuses."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bitter-sweet solution

TRUSTHOUSE Forte has withdrawn its libel action against the restaurant critic and former guide publisher Egon Ronay. The case, scheduled to open in the High Court on May 8, has been quietly withdrawn, and THF has paid £40,000 towards Ronay's costs. But the settlement comes too late to save Ronay's restaurant, the British Gastronomic Academy, of which he was the founding president and in whose first newsletter he described the catering at THF's Choices restaurant at Heathrow's Terminal 2 as "fit only for the dustbin" and concluded that "BAA must get rid of the present caterers". The Academy, meanwhile, intended to "raise standards of catering at all levels", gave up its search for sponsorship while litigation was still pending and, abandoned by its former chairman, old Etonian Rupert Hambro — the one-time chairman of the merchant bank — was forced into liquidation just days before the amicable settlement was announced.

Kleinwort Benson Securities, is leaving the City after 14 years to join the coal and gold mining company Geveor — once best known as a Cornish tin miner — as its chief executive. In so doing, he is effectively returning from whence he came. For Wellesley-Wood once spent six years with Anglo American Corporation, Geveor, which closed down the last of its Cornish tin mining operations this year and has since expanded into coal in Britain and gold in Ecuador, is described by Wellesley-Wood as an "interesting challenge". But the company was not one of Kleinwort's corporate clients. "Geveor does not have a stockbroker at the moment. I will be attending to that as soon as I join on June 18." No prizes for guessing which firm will be given first option.



Ill winds of Insider

IN times of need, the skills of a traded options dealer can clearly be put to a multitude of uses, as John Knox, head of options trading at Hoare Govett, will bear witness. Bearing the English Channel at the weekend, with the two other shareholders in their Sigma 33 yacht Insider — Hoare Govett corporate financiers Chris Zeal and Rufus Warner — they found themselves in a force seven gale somewhere between Hamble and Deauville. Green at the gills, they reacted a little too eagerly as soon as French land was sighted and promptly beached their boat. Informed by a coast guard that the tides would only permit their entry into Deauville harbour after midnight, and that they must pay charges amounting to about £50, Zeal and Knox promptly headed for the casino, leaving Warner to mind the boat, and won £250.

"Once we saw land we just wanted to go for it and we went for it and hit it hard," said Zeal, who also reveals that Malcolm Strang, who manned a rival Hill Samuel yacht on the same trip, has had a bucket and spade delivered to Hoare's offices. "To give us something to do next time we beach ourselves," explains Zeal. The boat, bought just two months ago, and on its first overseas trip, is still berthed in France. With the weather still rough, the Hoare trio had not the stomach to bring Insider back, and opted for the P&O ferry instead.

Carol Leonard

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Vickers

Shareholders - Support your Company

The break-up is destructive

Vote **AGAINST** IEP's proposals

RESOLUTIONS REQUISITIONED BY N.C.B. TRUST LIMITED, ON BEHALF OF IEP SECURITIES LIMITED, A SUBSIDIARY OF BRIERLEY INVESTMENTS LIMITED

8. That a proposal for a demerger of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars be formulated (Ordinary Resolution) ☐ For ☒ Against
9. To amend the Articles of Association (Special Resolution) ☐ For ☒ Against
10. To authorize the Company to make market purchases of its own shares (Special Resolution) ☐ For ☒ Against
11. To repay and cancel the Preferred 5% Stock, the 5% Preference Stock and the Cumulative Preference Stock (Ordinary Resolution) ☐ For ☒ Against
12. To request the Board to implement the market purchases referred to in Resolution 10 (Ordinary Resolution) ☐ For ☒ Against

YOUR PROXY CARD MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE 11.00 a.m. TUESDAY, 24TH APRIL, 1990

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Open High Low Close Vol					Open High Low Close Vol				
FT-SE 100					Three month ECU				
Jan 10	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 10	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
Jan 11	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 11	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
Jan 12	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 12	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
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Jan 58	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 58	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
Jan 59	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 59	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
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Jan 99	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 99	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25
Jan 100	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 100	86.25	86.25	86.25	86.25

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
Official prices/physicals basis					Official prices/physicals basis				
Contract					Contract				
Unit					Unit				
Copper					Copper				
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Jan 25	2286.0	2290.0	2281.0	2283.5	Jan 25	86.25</			

● INVENTION: POST OFFICE FOILS ARSONISTS
● SCIENCE: FEARS OVER WONDER GRASS
● TECHNOLOGY: SECOND-HAND SATELLITES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

Head start for the hi-tech surgeons

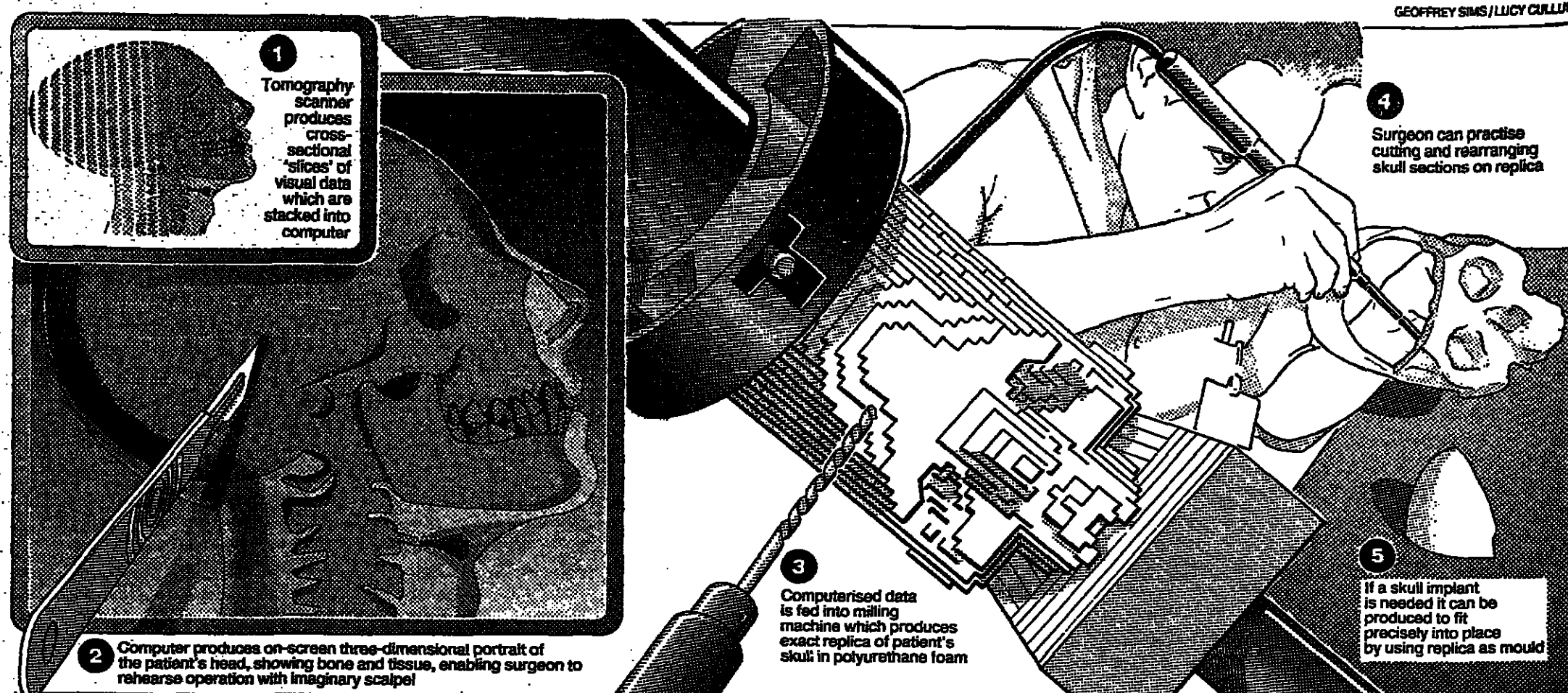
Exact 3D models of patients' heads and hips, designed by a computer and used to rehearse difficult operations, are being tested by hospitals, reports Thomson Prentice

Complex operations that would have been impossible only a few years ago are being performed by surgeons who first rehearse their techniques on exact replicas of their patients' skulls. The models are constructed from three-dimensional computer images, produced by hi-tech body scanners which supply richly detailed maps of individual patients, revealing the nature of their underlying conditions or injuries. The latest methods of reconstructive surgery are being developed in an experimental project in The Netherlands and, if successful, could transform the lives of many people who have been physically and psychologically scarred by severe congenital malformations, accidents or illnesses. Last month, a 20-year-old Dutchman, who was born with a grossly receding forehead and misshapen eye sockets, underwent the first full-scale operation in the project.

"Without these new techniques surgeons would not have dared to operate on him; the complexities were enormous," says Dr Frans Zonneveld, the medical physicist who pioneered the work at Philips Medical Systems laboratories in Eindhoven, and the University Hospital, Utrecht.

The surgeons rehearsed the cutting and reshaping of the patient's skull with a polyurethane foam model, built from information provided by computed tomography (CT) scans of his head. The scanner produces countless cross-sectional images of the head in the form of "slices", which are then stored in a computer to create a volume of data.

The computer operators then constructed a three-dimensional portrait of the patient's head on their display screen, by highlighting separate divisions of bone, blood vessels, fat and tissue in different colours, and combining images of the head taken from a variety of angles. Using these 3D



techniques, the surgeons could rotate the on-screen image to view it from all directions to observe abnormalities and "cut" it with an imaginary scalpel, planning each of the procedures they would employ in the actual operation. "One particular value of this part of the process is that it eliminates the need for exploratory operations," Dr Zonneveld says.

The computerized information was then fed into a milling machine to cut and shape the replica, to an accuracy of within one millimetre, from a block of rigid polyurethane foam with similar mechanical properties to bone. This allowed it to be cut using standard surgical instruments.

Other foam or resin-based materials tested by the researchers were rejected as either too hard or too brittle. If a prosthetic implant had been required for the patient, it would have been a simple matter to produce one that fitted exactly, with no need to trim bone.

The model was produced in a few hours and helped surgeons to understand the configurations of the patient's deformities, and to move and rearrange sections of the skull in a rehearsal of the corrective procedures.

The actual operation, to bring the patient's forehead forward and

to expand the eye sockets, took nine hours and was carried out at the Utrecht hospital by a team including Dr Noorman van der Dussen, a maxillofacial surgeon; Dr Nico Bosma, a neurosurgeon; and Professor Ben de Jong, a plastic surgeon.

"He is making a rapid and remarkable recovery and we can expect him to have a vastly improved quality of life as a result of the surgery," Dr Zonneveld says.

"The importance of these techniques is that we can now offer hope to patients with gross congenital malformities, sufferers of head tumours and victims of serious accidents, many of whom have such complex problems that they have been beyond the skills of the best surgeons."

"At best, all the necessary reconstructive surgery can now be contemplated in one operation, rather than a series of operations in those cases which have been suitable for surgery at all. This reduces the costs, the time, and the hazards involved."

Doctors at Utrecht and at the University Hospitals of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have commissioned a number of other replicas on behalf of a growing waiting list of patients, including several children, who have been referred to them for similar surgery.

Professor Angus McGrouther, Britain's only professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, at

University College Hospital, London, predicts increasing use of these and similar techniques internationally.

"Severe facial deformities may require extensive surgery on the bone of the skull and facial skeleton to achieve a correction," he says. "Three-dimensional mod-

'We can now offer hope to patients with congenital malformities or head tumours and victims of serious accidents'

elling of the skull and facial bones is now possible by combining the modern developments of scanning and computer graphics to plan such surgery."

The new techniques are being extended to other parts of the body, such as the hip and limbs.

In New York, Professor Dean Taylor, of Cornell University, predicts that orthopaedic surgeons will soon be able to manipulate an on-screen image of a patient's hip or knee in order to tailor artificial joints, and to test how it will fit

and move even before the operation begins.

The results will be artificial joints which have been "tuned" so precisely that the devices will last decades longer than they do at present, and be less expensive to make, Prof Taylor says.

American specialists expect the number of such implants to increase substantially in the coming years, given the rise in the proportion of elderly patients. Already, some 200,000 artificial hip joints are implanted each year in the United States.

At present, a surgeon chooses an implant for a patient from a limited number of standard-sized devices, by superimposing a succession of silhouette templates over X-rays of the joint.

Even with X-rays as guides, however, several sizes must be available in the operating theatre because the real, three-dimensional joint may be surprisingly different from that portrayed in a two-dimensional X-ray.

Prof Taylor, an associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, is leading his technical expertise to a research project which is being conducted at Cornell and at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in New York.

Data from CT scans of the patient's joint are fed into a clinical computer system which employs colours, transparency, three dimensions and dynamic

motion to create an image. The surgeon can then design and "test" a made-to-measure implant, produced in the same way as the Dutch replicas.

"The combination of CT scans and graphics to display information for surgeons means we can achieve a much better fit and design for hip implants," Prof Taylor says.

He adds: "It is reasonable to expect these improved devices to last longer. The system allows the surgeon to determine potential problems before the operation, and increases his productivity."

Prof Taylor was describing the advances in hip and knee joints at a meeting in the United States to discuss advances made possible by the application of supercomputers to bioengineering.

With artificial joints designed and machined in the hospital's biomechanics laboratory adjacent to the operating theatre, the 3D computer graphics allow a "rehearsal" of the surgery in such detail that the surgeon can test how the implant fits and moves in the patient before the procedure has started.

While some hip implants replace joints broken in falls, the majority are performed to restore mobility lost to arthritis or dysplasia; and abnormal develop-

ment of tissue that causes dislocation.

Prof Taylor says reduction of costs is also an important goal in the computer-tailored hip and knee joints project, and wrist, shoulder and implants.

He estimates that in the United States large orthopaedic hospitals keep an inventory of hip and knee replacements worth up to \$5 million (about £3 million).

Replacement of the present generation of hip joints, which last about 10 years, is usually necessary because of loosening of the joint or bone or breakage of the implant because dynamic nature of the environment of the body into which it is inserted.

Prof Taylor says: "Designing an artificial joint is not like designing the suspension of the landing gear of an aircraft. The living skeleton is not an inert system; it is very active with the bone adjusting itself to altered loads. It is also a tough chemical environment."

Supercomputers are needed to process the immensely elaborate mathematical model that has been constructed for structural analysis, and which is employed for showing how the bone of an individual patient will respond to implants by changing their geometry and material properties.

In an emergency, a new joint can be designed, machined and tested before surgery in a week.

Hubble launch advanced

The Hubble Space Telescope is now expected to go into orbit next week, Nasa says

Space experts yesterday successfully test-fired a new hydraulic power unit aboard the Shuttle spacecraft Discovery, opening the possibility that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) may be able to advance the date of the delayed launch of the Hubble Space Telescope to next week. A Nasa official said: "We can now lay out the rest of the activities that are necessary to complete between now and launch and we can gauge the time to see if we can make the launch on April 24 or 25."

The first attempt to launch the \$1.5 billion (nearly £1 billion) space telescope, which should give astronomers a 10 times sharper view of stars

and galaxies, was delayed last Thursday with only four minutes left to countdown.

A decision is expected today if engineers are satisfied with further overnight checks on a new power steering unit.

The most expensive satellite ever built was grounded by a fault in one of the auxiliary power units, APU, of the Shuttle. A replacement APU, which will provide hydraulic steering power to the Shuttle's engines and wing flaps, was installed in Discovery's engine room at the weekend.

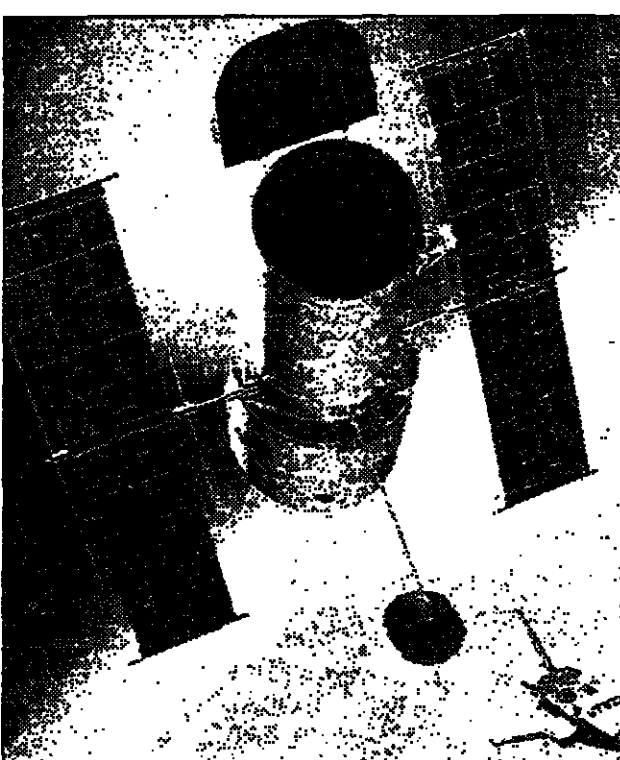
It passed stringent tests in a critical five-minute "hot firing" yesterday. The replacement work, never before attempted at the launch pad with a Shuttle in the vertical position, along with work to recharge the space telescope's batteries, prompted Nasa managers to consider a lift-off for 8.30am April 25, 15 days late. With repair work proceeding better than expected, they are prepared to move the flight up one day further if results from the APU test and

other tasks stay on schedule. No other astronomy project has taken so long to develop, proven so technologically challenging or cost so much.

Yet the concept for an orbiting telescope can be traced to early speculations about the way to use space proposed by the German rocket pioneer Hermann Oberth in his book *By Rockets into Interplanetary Space*, written in 1923.

His idea remained unrecognized until Lyman Spitzer, now of Princeton University, recommended it in 1946 and when one of the first scientific studies prepared for Nasa after its founding in 1958 identified a space observatory as a natural long-range goal. Preliminary design work began in 1973.

In addition to an undisturbed view of visible light, the telescope can also collect the ultra-violet and infra-red radiation blocked by the atmosphere. When the project got underway fully in 1978, launch was expected in 1984.



The \$1 billion telescope, delayed by a Shuttle fault

Electric car age dawns

The day of the practical electric car may have dawned with the invention in Japan of a battery that can be recharged in 10 seconds and which produces 20 times more power for its weight than conventional batteries. Existing car batteries need eight or more hours to recharge (Joe Joseph, in Tokyo, writes).

Isuzu Motors, the Japanese carmaker which developed the powerful, lightweight battery with Fuji Electrochemical Company, expects to start commercial sales in two years. They have produced an experimental 1.2 volt, coin-sized version of the battery.

But Isuzu Motors is already tinkering on an electric car design using its new invention. It hopes that the battery's short recharging time and its expanded power can snap the lead that has tied most electric cars to the drawing board.

Present car batteries are bulky and need several hours to recharge.

Isuzu says its version is almost everlasting and can be

A battery the size of a coin is being tested by scientists in Japan

made in any shape. It could be attached to a car's bumper or roof.

The companies have mentioned home appliances and cars as potential uses, but industry analysts say application details are fuzzy, and so are technical specifics, such as the batteries' lifetimes.

The battery, in the near term, is likely to give a jump-start mainly to such specialized electric-powered vehicles as golf carts, mail cars, and forklifts, some analysts said. But the long-term goal is for the car market.

According to the Isuzu spokesman, the new battery is about one-twentieth the weight of present batteries, and would probably cost less; key factors in making the

electric car a practical proposition.

Isuzu's associate, General Motors, unveiled an experimental electric car called Impact last year, and is studying its commercial feasibility.

"Isuzu's battery with GM's car could put the two companies in the lead in the race to commercialize the electric car," says Stephen Marvin, auto analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities.

"The new battery of itself does not make the electric car feasible but it could provide the basis for further research that could bring the commercialization of the electric car closer," Mr Marvin adds.

Most auto companies are working to develop such a car, which would not directly rely on the fuels that release harmful gases into the air.

But the day when drivers can fill up their batteries with "juice" at their local service station is still distant.

The test speeds of existing prototypes are less than 30 kilometres (18 miles) an hour and prices are astronomical.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Postmen foil the arsonists

An alarming increase in arson attacks, particularly on council houses, has led the Post Office to launch a range of letterboxes that automatically extinguish fires. Many inner city authorities are fitting them to the front doors of tenants at risk.

The letterbox opening is the weakest point of a house, and it is easy to pour petrol through it and throw in a match. The fumes from such a fire can rapidly fill a home with lethal effect, particularly if the occupants are asleep.

Families threatened with attack have sometimes barricaded themselves inside so effectively that firemen cannot get in to rescue them.

The devices to frustrate the arsonist, developed for the Post Office by Autoguard Security Systems of Colchester, Essex, cost about £90.

A canister of halon gas, which blankets flames, is mounted in the top of the metal mailbox fitted to the inside of the front door. If a fire is started, the heat shatters a glass phial and the gas is released.

Chris Partridge on a letterbox which the Post Office says will provide protection against arson attacks

Because halon is heavier than air, it collects in the mailbox and sits there until the box is opened.

Often, an arsonist will try again when he sees that the first attempt has failed, but the lingering gas will frustrate a renewed attack.

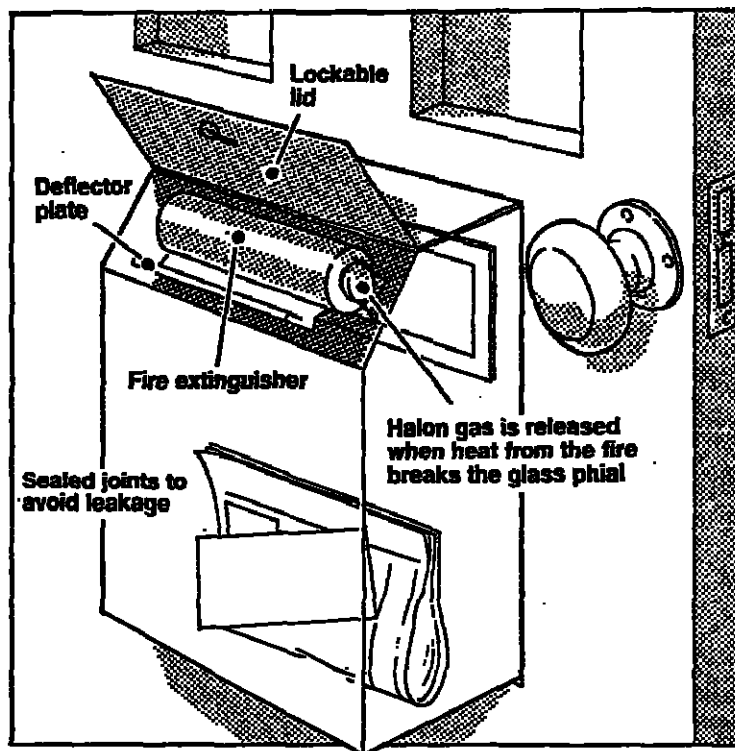
More sophisticated versions, costing £250, that can snuff petrol vapour and release the gas before the fire even starts are available to protect the mailboxes of banks and building societies, which are not often attacked but can contain valuable documents.

The other application for the device is inside pillar boxes, a favourite target (three or four are set alight every weekend in Birmingham alone). The halon extinguisher is so effective that a postman opening the box to make a collection would not realize that an attack had been made but for a flashing red light indicating that the gas canister needs replacing.

Autoguard says the only drawback is that halon is an environmentally unfriendly CFC gas. But it points out that if a home went up in flames the gases created would have a far greater effect on the ozone layer than the halon. However, the problem will be cured later this year when the halon is replaced by an ICI ozone-friendly gas.

The new mailbox had to pass tests devised by one of the most experienced teams of scientists in the design of high security systems. Protection of the Royal Mail became a job of a specialist investigation team created by the Post Office almost 200 years ago to reduce the incidence of robbery.

Prevention of present-day crime calls on a battery of forensic services, computer-based analysis, tamper-proof security devices — and 250 detectives.



SCIENCE REPORT

A foxy look at distant origins

A technique called genetic "fingerprinting" which is used to settle paternity suits can help biologists work out evolutionary relationships between small populations of animals cast adrift on islands, according to a report in today's *Nature* (vol. 344, pp. 764-766).

Genetic fingerprinting, invented by Alec Jeffreys, of the University of Leicester, depends on identifying short pieces of genetic material that carry repetitive sequences of genetic information. When a sample is "typed out" in the laboratory, the fingerprints show up as a distinctive pattern of bands like a bar code on a can of beans.

Genetic mutation results in slight changes in the fingerprint pattern, which can be passed from generation to generation. In large populations in which any two individuals are unlikely to be related to one another, these inherited genetic changes mean that the fingerprints tend to be similar within families — hence the application in paternity disputes.

But Robert Wayne, from the University of California at Los Angeles, and colleagues from the US National Cancer Institute in Maryland, show that things are very different for small populations in which the average degree of relatedness between individuals is likely to be higher.

Mr Wayne and his colleagues have been studying small populations of the California Channel Island fox, *Urocyon littoralis*, on six islands off the Californian coast. Foxes from the same island all have similar fingerprints, but these are distinct from those of the foxes on the other islands. The foxes on one island had identical fingerprints. In most animal populations, identical

fingerprints must come from the same animal, or else identical twins. This lack of variation shows that the foxes on each island are remarkably inbred. This implies, in turn, that particular genetic sequences can spread through the population more quickly than new ones can arise by mutation.

The researchers could usually tell which population a fox came from simply by looking at the fingerprints: these showed up some bands that were only ever present in foxes from a particular island.

Mr Wayne's team could also work out which populations were the most similar genetically, by looking for the amount of overlap between their fingerprints. Using this information, Mr Wayne and his colleagues were able to draw up an "evolutionary tree" showing how the six populations are related. Small, isolated populations of animals, such as those on islands, are known to be hotbeds of evolutionary change.

Charles Darwin's theory was shaped by his experiences in the Galapagos archipelago, where he noticed the subtle differences between similar species of finch found on different islands. Darwin saw the result of a long period of separate evolution, but the different populations of California Channel Island foxes have been separated for only several thousand years — a mere eye-blink in evolutionary terms.

The new findings may give biologists a window on the genetic changes that happen in small populations just as they start to diverge, the start of the process whereby distinct species originate.

Peter Aldhous
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Human gene therapy has been given provisional approval and an experiment should take place this year. It will demonstrate a possible cure for a disease caused by a defective gene by replacing it with a donated healthy version.

The American National Institutes of Health has approved a gene therapy proposal for treating children born with the rare disease, known as the "bubble baby syndrome". These children have no natural defence against infection and must live in a sterile environment.

There are other disorders of the immune system, in which a defective gene stops some of the white blood cells which normally protect us against disease from working properly, that are expected to become the next candidates.

If successful, the group of blood disorders such as haemophilia and thalassaemia — anaemia caused by genetic defects — are likely to be tackled by gene therapy.

The scope for gene therapy has widened so much that scientists now are researching ways to use it to prevent or to treat diseases, including coronary heart disease and cancer.

Genes have been shifted routinely from one living or

An experiment in human gene therapy is likely this year, John Newell writes

Hope on immune horizon

Genes are being moved from one species of plant to another, or even from bacteria or fungi into plants, to give crops valuable properties such as resistance to disease or to herbicides which could not be provided by conventional plant breeding.

"Transgenic" sheep have been bred with human genes added to make the sheep produce valuable substances, such as the clotting factors needed to treat haemophilia.

But human gene therapy — the development that excites and sometimes frightens people most of all — is still to come. At a recent London meeting of scientists, Professor Richard Mulligan, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an acknowledged leader in gene therapy development, says it will first be used to treat

immune system disorders caused by genetic defects. These disorders are incurable and often fatal and the technology needed for their treatment has already been developed.

Such conditions are sometimes treated by killing the patient's own bone marrow, the tissue where the white cells are made, using radiation or toxic chemicals, and transplanting healthy bone marrow from a related donor into the patient to produce healthy white blood cells.

Gene therapy for such conditions will be performed by taking a sample of the patient's own bone marrow, growing it in the laboratory and infecting the bone marrow with a virus called a retrovirus which naturally inserts its own genes into the cell it infects.

The retrovirus used will be rendered harmless by removing some of its genes and inserting in their place the correct version of the gene which is defective in the human patient. After being infected in this

way with the wanted gene, the bone marrow will be grown in culture and then reimplanted in the patient. The hope is that it will supply enough healthy, normal white blood cells to cure the condition.

Prof Mulligan says he expects to see such techniques being used for the first time within three years and making a major medical impact in 10 or 15 years.

All the techniques required have already been tested in mice. After bone marrow, the next target for gene therapy is the liver. Defective genes in liver cells cause several common diseases.

Prof Mulligan's team has shown that by inserting the correct version of the gene into only 5 per cent of the cells of the liver of a rabbit affected by hypercholesterolaemia — very high levels of blood cholesterol causing hardening of the arteries and coronary heart diseases — it is possible to lower blood

cholesterol levels by 30 per cent. Research is now showing that it will not always be necessary to put the wanted genes into the part of the body affected by a disease.

Professor Howard Green, of the Harvard Medical School, is planning to treat dwarfism, caused by a deficiency of the growth hormone normally produced by the pituitary gland, by implanting genes for growth hormones into skin grafts. The plan is to remove a small sample of skin cells from the patient and to insert the growth hormone gene into them using a retrovirus.

Then the cells will be grown in tissue culture until there are enough of them to provide a sizeable sheet of skin. This will then be grafted on to the patient and hopefully will supply the missing growth hormone by diffusion down into blood vessels below the surface of the skin. Donor skin cannot be used because of rejection problems.

As well as treating many of

the 2,000 diseases caused by signal genetic defects, which affect about 5 per cent of people, gene therapy may eventually become the preferred means of treating and preventing forms of cancer and heart disease. It could happen within our children's lifetimes.

But is it safe? Prof Mulligan believes there is no risk that retroviruses used to carry new genes into cells might cause infectious diseases or cancer. Another concern is that such viruses might trigger the effects of oncogenes, the genes which can cause cancer if they are stimulated to act in the wrong place or at the wrong time.

No sign of any such effects has been seen in 2,000 test tube experiments, but more precautions are still needed.

But Prof Mulligan and others point out that the risks of gene therapy, when it is first used to treat fatal and incurable diseases, will certainly be less than those of other treatments when they were used for incurable cancers for the first time.

John Newell is BBC World Services science editor and author of *The Gene Shifters*, published by W. H. Allen in September 1989 (£6.95).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 34

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pearce-Wright reports on a coastal wonder

Critics trim magic grass

A chance sexual encounter, just over 100 years ago, between a variety of cordgrass growing in Europe and its North American cousin gave birth to a new species, *Spartina anglica*. This sturdy, salt-tolerant and, until recently, welcome offspring, which could be harvested to yield 16 tonnes of dried leaf and stalk per hectare, has suddenly become a centre of attention and concern.

The unusual botanical union can be traced to the salt marshes of the Solent estuary in the south of England, and it has had a profound effect on the ecology of the habitats to which it has spread, naturally and by deliberate introductions in temperate regions of the north and southern hemispheres.

Thirteen research groups which have studied its origins and propagation present their findings in *Spartina anglica: A Research Review*, published by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology of the Natural Environment Research Council.

The new strain of cordgrass dominated the lower intertidal zones of mudflats and salt marshes,

previously unoccupied by perennial plants. With its ability to bind mud and prevent coastal erosion through its elaborate root system, the grass soon became a useful plant in land reclamation, with the bonus that it provided good grazing.

Its use in stabilizing shorelines is attributed to the then Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, in 1907. More recently, additional benefits have come from its ability to grow in oil-polluted areas, such as estuaries with oil refineries.

But the prospect of an erosion of coastlines caused by rising sea levels associated with global warming, casts doubt on the further usefulness of the species, according to Alan Gray and Pauline Benham, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology's Fuzzebrook Research Station, at Wareham in Dorset.

Possible harmful effects include the invasion of wader and wildfowl feeding grounds and the displacement of more diverse plant communities by swarms of this single species. The reduction in diversity is a matter of concern for nature conservationists because, com-

pared with pressures of land and

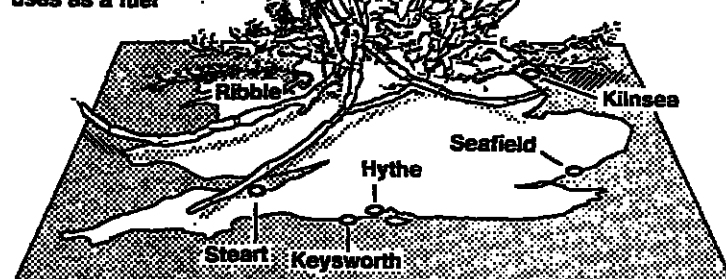


Solent's safeguard: *Spartina anglica* growing on saltflats

commercial development, it means that fewer intertidal feeding grounds are available to birds. Estuaries famous for their waders in Morecambe Bay and the Solway are threatened.

The grass belongs to a class known as polyploid because it contains a double set of chromosomes, which means it has two sets of genes from parents of different species. By backtracking through the type of cross-breeding that might lead to this particular polyploid, the botanists identified two plants, *Spartina maritima* from Europe and *Spartina alterniflora* from North America, with a combination of genetic make-up that matches *Spartina anglica*.

The grass has proven to be extremely resilient, recovering from oil spills and preventing ground erosion. It may also have uses as a fuel.



Locations of the salt marshes where the grass is flourishing

New technique may unscramble our past

History of modern man in an eggshell

SOME OF the most bitter disputes over exactly when anatomically modern humans evolved may be resolved by an intriguing new method of dating prehistoric objects adopted by a team of American scientists.

The technique relies on the fact that two million years ago humans began to eat ostrich eggs and use their shells for storing water and for adornment. It fills a vital gap between the ranges provided by radiocarbon dating and the analysis of potassium-argon ratios in samples (Pearce Wright writes).

The results, involving researchers from five universities, show that the technique can determine ages to within 10 per cent accuracy for sites within the last 200,000 years in the tropics and within the last one million years in colder regions, such as China.

The scientists believe a modified version involving analysis of owl eggs and the remnants of other avian species could be appropriate for investigations in Europe.

Eggshells of the African ostrich were the first to be used because they were common in archaeological sites in

Africa, according to a report from Professor A. S. Brooks, of the department of anthropology of the George Washington University, Washington, and colleagues.

They describe in the magazine *Science* how the method was first tested in laboratory simulations of aging. Analyses were then made of material from documented sites and compared with data obtained with a variety of established procedures.

The focus of most debate is on the dating of the sites, hominid fossils and artefacts of associated archaeological industries from Africa and the Near East, covering the period from 40,000 years to 200,000 years. This is thought to be the epoch which holds the secrets of the biological and cultural origins of modern man.

Many fossil discoveries of this period have been dated provisionally on circumstantial evidence. Local variables make this method uncertain, however. The alternative approach based on the ostrich eggshell relies on the slow changes which occur in protein molecules in the shell. These changes are influenced by time and temperature.

Eating to live

A diet that is claimed to extend life span by 50 per cent is being studied by American gerontologists at the National Institute of Aging, in Bethesda, Maryland. It allegedly prevents heart disease, diabetes and kidney failure, retards all types of cancer, eliminates or forestalls many of the usual bane of aging — including cataracts and feebleness — and keeps the mind supple and the body spry to an almost biblical old age. On a microscopic level, the diet protects the genes against environmental insults, keeps important enzymes operating at peak efficiency and cuts back on dangerous metabolic byproducts in the body. And the dieter stays slim. Very, very slim.

These claims are not phantasms, but the results of astonishing studies that have captured attention among scientists in the fields of aging, toxicology, oncology and other disciplines. In laboratory experiments, investigators have discovered that animals raised on a meal plan containing all the necessary vitamins and other nutrients, but only 60 to 65 per cent of the calories of the animal's normal diet, live significantly longer than expected.

By nearly all measures, from the health of the creature's organs and the robustness of its immune system to the lustrous appearance of its fur, the animal on the restricted diet maintains the vigour of youth long after the well-fed control animals have become weak, sluggish and grizzled; indeed, long after the controls have died. Laboratory mice fed the restricted diet, for example, have lived to 55 months. The average life span of lab mice eating a normal diet, in which they consume as much as they want to, is about 36 months.

"The outcome of caloric restriction is spectacular," says Richard Weidrich, a gerontologist at the National Institute of Aging. "Gerontologists have tried many things to extend life span, but this is the only one that consistently works in the lab."

Much to their surprise, researchers have found that it does not matter whether the sharply restricted diet is composed largely of fat or of carbohydrates. As long as the animal receives a minimum amount of protein and enough vitamins and minerals to prevent malnutrition, the creature survives to the same venerable old age.

But researchers warn against people undertaking an ascetic regimen too hastily. They stress that experimental animals are fed carefully measured and planned menus and that it is easy to become malnourished.

"At this point, I definitely would not recommend a calorie-restricted diet for people," says Dr Angelo Turchio, a biologist at the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson, Arkansas. "There are still too many unknowns."

BRIEFING

Cold relief

Rheumatism sufferers in a West Berlin hospital are being offered a radical new form of treatment. They will be subjected to temperatures of minus 180 degrees Celsius, twice as cool as the coldest temperature found naturally on earth.

A liquid nitrogen generator produces liquid air, which is stored in a vacuum-insulated container.

This is then used to cool a fresh air stream for a cryotherapy chamber, which patients enter for a few minutes three times a day over a period of several months.

The intense cold relieves the rheumatic pain in the affected joints, and the consequent improved mobility assists the restoration of damaged bone tissue, according to Sulzer (UK) Ltd, the company in Aldershot, Hampshire, which is supplying the equipment to the Immanuel Hospital in West Berlin.

Diet for two

A woman's diet around the time of conception and the first three months of pregnancy is more important in determining the weight, head circumference and length — and therefore overall health — of the baby at birth than her diet in the latter six months of pregnancy, according to a study in the *Journal of Nutritional Medicine*, a new medical journal published last week.

The conclusions are based on a study of 513 pregnant women by the Nuffield Laboratories of Comparative Medicine at the Institute of Zoology in London.

It showed that lower intakes of vitamins B1 and B3, magnesium and iron around the time of conception and the first three months of pregnancy were associated with lower birthweights.

Women giving birth to babies with a head circumference of less than 23 centimetres were associated with lower intakes of vitamins, minerals and fibre.

Light relief

Cabbages and broccoli that have been genetically engineered to glow are being tested in a research project approved by the United States government. Professor Joseph Shaw, of Auburn University, Alabama, transferred a set of genes having a code for bioluminescence from a marine organism into bacteria that cause black rot, a major disease of plants in the cabbage and broccoli family.

After infection by the luminescent bacteria, the diseased parts of the plant glow, allowing scientists to trace the progress of the disease without destroying the plants, Professor Shaw says.

The US Agriculture Department said field tests would not pose an agricultural or human hazard.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Why China launched a second-hand American satellite

The development of the United States space Shuttle put the idea of the reusable launch vehicle into practice. The Chinese have now demonstrated the notion of the reusable space satellite.

When China celebrated its entry into the commercial space business this month, with the launch of a communications and television satellite called AsiaSat 1, for a Hong Kong-based international consortium, one of the more extraordinary technical aspects of the venture received little recognition. It had already been into space.

There were also significant political hurdles to be surmounted because AsiaSat, launched mainly for communications and broadcasting television channels for China, Thailand, Pakistan and Hong Kong, was built by America's Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

Clearance for its launch on a Chinese Long March-3 rocket became threatened by American sanctions imposed after the Beijing uprising last year.

AsiaSat's first journey into space

A satellite stranded in orbit and then recovered has made a new journey into space, reports Pearce Wright

was under the name Westar 6. It was one of two built by the Hughes corporation and carried into orbit on Shuttle Mission 10 in February 1984.

Unfortunately, the motors of both Westar 6 and its sister satellite Palapa B2 failed to propel them high enough to reach the geostationary position necessary for a permanent communications satellite, and they became stranded in a useless low-earth orbit where they waited for nine months.

Since the motor used on Westar 6 had a successful record, the cus-

tomers for whom Palapa B2 was to be launched, the Indonesian government, was asked if it wanted the mission to continue.

Returning it to earth would have cost \$10 million (£6.2 million) and involved Nasa in a landing for which it was not prepared.

The attempt to launch was agreed, but again failed.

While the customers collected their insurance, totalling \$180 million (£111 million), the cost of satellite premiums increased by about 12 per cent.

Disappointment at the loss of the two satellites was mitigated, nevertheless, by the spectacular demonstration on the same mission of the Manned Manoeuvring Unit for untethered flight.

In a remarkable rescue, Shuttle Mission 10 recovered Westar 6 and its Palapa B2, and they were refurbished and resold at bargain prices.

Both satellites belong to one of the most widely used family of communications satellites. They are 9ft tall when loaded on their launch vehicle, but when their telescopic



American technicians work on the Chinese-launched AsiaSat 1

solar panels and folding antennae are released, they measure 22ft.

Recovery of the satellites was probably the most demanding task conducted by an untethered astronaut. It was achieved with a device

called a "stinger" which was locked on to the spacecraft so the satellites could be drawn into the cargo bay. A similar effort will be repeated next week if the Hubble space telescope is able to be released.

JOBSCENE

The freeing-up of Eastern skills

Europe's emerging democracies are exchanging IT staff for hard currency

British computer services companies are turning to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe for alternative sources of information technology staff.

Discussions have been held with state-owned IT organisations in the Eastern Bloc and one British recruitment agency is holding talks with the Polish Government to create a "migration route" for IT staff to contract in the UK.

UK companies complain of difficulties in recruiting skilled staff, while Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia are seen as having plenty of highly qualified technical graduates. These countries are keen to contract their IT staff in return for foreign currency as they seek to restructure their economies.

Some see them as having the potential to provide a rival to Asia, which has succeeded in undercutting costs in the West through cheaper wages. Already large software projects are being offloaded to India and Malaysia.

The advantage of Eastern Europe is its proximity but some British union officials are concerned that it could pose a threat to staff here if companies impose employment conditions not acceptable in the West.

One drawback is that the level of IT skills available in Eastern Europe lags behind, but Western computer companies are opening offices in droves and offering training.

Hungary recently gave a presentation to the UK's Computing Services Association (CSA), at their invitation, to improve links with British IT companies. Ervin Kovacs, director of the state-owned Szalak, the largest software house in Hungary, which employs 1,300 IT employees, says there is a

computer staff of about 20,000 in Hungary - about the size of the UK's IT contractor workforce - and they are accelerating training.

He says they have no intention of undercutting salaries in the West, but are rather seeking to help overcome recruitment problems in exchange for Western currency.

"The biggest part of our business is exporting people to take part in software development projects in mostly West Germany but also France though the interest from British companies has been good," Mr Kovacs said.

Computer services companies are open to these proposals as they say they need more skilled staff than they can find locally.

One factor holding back the trend is that Eastern Bloc countries are barred from using advanced systems under the Western governments' CoCom regulations, the body which controls high-technology exports.

This means that there are few with experience of the latest software and hardware, although Mr Kovacs says that Eastern European countries have gained access to "grey software", or copies.

But leading computer suppliers are rapidly forming relationships with organisations in the Eastern Bloc and will be training employees in the latest IT skills.

ICL formed a joint company in Leningrad last year which employs 70 staff.

Digital Equipment has formed a joint company with two of Hungary's leading engineering organisations. Oracle, the software supplier, has signed an agreement with a Hungarian software house and Czechoslovakian academic institute.

However, some Eastern Europeans are not content to wait for companies to get these agreements off the ground. The management consultancy Ernst & Young had a reply for an IT executive position from a Russian researcher in Moscow. He mentioned his extensive experience in IT and "willingness to relocate".

Leslie Tilley

Video players with a personal touch

Personal video players will soon be widely available in Europe, but would-be buyers may find them too costly. George Cole reports

IN JAPAN, people are using tiny video recorders with built-in television screens to watch video programmes on trains, buses and planes. It is all part of an evolving "video lifestyle" which takes the medium into the growing world of personal computers, stereos and telephones.

Ten years ago, the electronics company Sony introduced its Walkman personal stereo unit which allowed its users to play music tapes almost anywhere. Electronics companies are now talking about personal video players. They range from palm-sized units to machines the size and weight of a lap-top computer.

JVC, for example, is planning to launch a modular video system made of several components - including a

video camera, television screen and video recorder - than can be used separately or slotted together to form a complete video unit.

All the systems play pre-recorded tapes and allow users to record television programmes - some even include a miniature video camera that can be worn on a belt or headband. Most also include built-in speakers and headphones.

The first systems were launched in Japan in 1987, with first-year sales totalling 10,000 units. Industry estimates put this year's sales at nearer 360,000 units.

Last year, Sony released the Video Walkman in Europe for £800. It is about the size of a thick paperback book, runs on batteries or mains and displays its pictures on a four-inch flat television screen. Other companies are promising to launch similar products this summer.

But, despite the variety of personal videos available, the market has grown slowly because they are far too expensive for general use and there is a bewildering range of video standards.

Personal video is a three-horse race, with electronics companies backing several in-

compatible or partly compatible systems. Apart from the confusion it creates, the standards war is likely to make consumers uneasy about committing themselves to a format that might become obsolete - like Sony's Betamax and Philips' V2000 video systems.

One of the biggest targets for personal video is the transport world. Companies paint a picture of commuters using pocket-sized machines to watch last night's programmes on the morning train, or parents keeping their children entertained on long car journeys.

Personal video systems are already being used on Japan Airlines and Virgin to provide in-flight entertainment for first and business-class passengers. Several other airlines, including British Airways, are evaluating these systems, while in Japan they are used on some Japanese sleeper trains and taxis. But Sony expects them to be used in other areas, such as libraries, video rental shops, travel agents, hotels and hospitals. Electronics company Hitachi hopes personal videos will also be used in the business market, for sales presentations and "video memos", for

example. And, with an eye to the international business market, the company has just launched a £1,300 VHS portable that will play video tapes from anywhere in the world.

But the real challenge is to make personal video cheap enough for the mass market. Personal videos can never match the price of personal stereos because the players use complex and expensive tape mechanisms. Most personal videos cost about £1,000 because manufacturers incorporate all the features found on a standard video deck, including a television tuner and recording facility.

But the companies say they will eventually launch stripped-down versions which will sell for far less than those available at the moment.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 32

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH & SELECTION

مركز البحث العلمي

APPOINTMENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 19 1990

Working the world

The days when experience gathered beyond our shores was considered a career interruption are over. Young professionals heading for work overseas know their determination will be seen not as opting out but as opting in.

A report from Voluntary Service Overseas, "The VSO Effect", says service in another country "produces people who are adaptable, responsible and tenacious; people who can manage people and communicate with them".

In a Third World country, the scale of responsibility thrust on a novice can be enormous, which is why one returner, typically, claimed VSO gave him "outstanding management experience... supervising projects and taking decisions".

The spin-offs are endorsed in the report by Valerie Singleton, a television and radio broadcaster, who believes that if Britain is going to participate fully in post-1992 Europe, "the ability to deal with people from different cultural backgrounds is vital".

Earlier retirement, increasing job changes and extended secondments provide chances to go abroad to use marketable skills to enhance quality of life, as well as

Young professionals heading for jobs overseas are not opting out. Ann Hills reports on the various positive spin-offs

for monetary gain. A senior development officer from BP in north-west Europe is now with VSO as a founding manager in Ghana. A retired NHS information manager is using his talent in Grenada.

Workers can get down to the roots of local resources.

For example, the alio is a wild nutlet found under forest cover at high altitudes in Nepal. A report on its potential says that its fibre, in addition to being woven into warm clothing, could be processed as cloth for regional use and, perhaps, for export.

With such potential, the nutlet may eventually boost the economic position of families in remote hill areas. But technical expertise and substantial resources will be needed.

The report was published by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), a charity with about 150 staff worldwide and modern headquarters in Rugby, Warwickshire.

ITDG's origins stem from the

late small-is-beautiful thinker Dr E. E. Schumacher, who preached that Third World technology should be appropriate, whether for rural communities in India, Latin America, or city slums.

As its 25th anniversary looms in 1991, ITDG is, as Dr Schumacher intended, a professional meeting point employing western skills to improve tools of the trade in poor countries, without imposing western standards. Innovation springs from collaboration in the field.

"ITDG," explains Megan Jones, the group's press spokeswoman, "is often merely the catalyst for changes."

The necessary skills and sensitivity have become the backbone of new careers for already experienced overseas volunteers, engineers, textile crafts people, nutritionists and economists. Recent recruits include civil and mining engineers, socio-economists, specialists in fisheries and food processing, a veterinarian and a carpenter.

There is an increasing number of courses for the career-minded. The British Council publishes an updated list of rural development courses in Britain. ITDG also publishes educational guidance with lists of sister organizations that employ staff. The magazine, *Appropriate Technology*, gives the flavour of work internationally. It is available from the IT bookshop at 103 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH (01-436 9761).

For details of courses and events and the updated leaflet on "Employment in Appropriate Technology", send an A4 envelope with a 24p stamp to the Intermediate Technology Development Group, Myson House, Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3HT (0788 60631).

The commercial consultancy field is expanding overseas. Details through the British Consultants Bureau, (1) Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1 1RJ (01-222 3651). Useful publications are available from Vacation Work (9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1JH, and the Central Bureau for Educational Visits & Exchanges, (Seymour Mews, London W1H 9PF (01-486 5101).



Kathryn Clarke went to the Philippines with VSO

WHAT'S COOKING

KATHRYN CLARKE, 38, was in an office in the Intermediate Technology Development Group's Rugby headquarters. Having gone from a London University degree in nutrition to being marketing manager with Milupa, a leading baby food company, she went to the Philippines three years ago with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). There she used her marketing skills to advise on raising credit for small businesses. She came up against the problems of adapting small-scale technology to larger enterprises, such as making sweets.

"VSO was a preparation for a job in development," Ms Clarke says. She has since taken on a number of responsibilities at ITDG. In Sri Lanka, she organized an international seminar on urban stores. This is based on a project to create production facilities and a market for 100,000 fuel-efficient stoves a year.

She believes that what is wanted is not a "techno-fix" solution, but technology responsive to local needs. In Bangladesh, for example, a project which processes sugar cane brings employment to landless rural women.

PAUL CALVERT, a 31-year-old mechanical engineer, is leaving Rugby to spend a year as technical manager for fisheries and the boat development programme in Kerala, India.

He will work with the South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies, which represents 4,000 men, helping develop plywood boats to replace vessels made from non-rare mango logs.

An escape route from your chosen career

Changing your occupation need not be impossible, Roger Jones writes

I have to admit to being a devotee of films about the Second World War, particularly those where the plot focuses on a daring escape. Every POW camp seems to have had its own escape committee composed of heroes prepared to risk their lives in order to outsmart their captors and get away.

When I came across an organization based in Cornwall called The Escape Committee, I wondered at first whether it was a club where veteran escapees could reminisce about the exploits of their youth.

But it turned out to be a group of people seeking to escape from their careers into more promising fields.

It is the brainchild of a

former adult education principal, John Wilson. A few years ago the county council which employed Mr Wilson was in the throes of reorganizing its educational services. Mr Wilson and a number of his colleagues felt that any change would represent a change for the worse, so they organized The Escape Committee.

The idea was to help those dissatisfied in the education service to explore other career options and to provide examples of people who had changed careers successfully.

In 1986 he launched his newsletter, and not long after he made his own escape and headed for Cornwall. Since then he has been working from his Zennor base with a

part-time staff providing help for other would-be escapees. He also runs a help-line and a mail order book service.

At first his attention was directed at disillusioned teachers, of whom about one in three has considered moving out of education, according to a recent survey by the NUT. More recently the scope has been extended to all branches of the public sector.

This is a shrewd move on Mr Wilson's part, since there is a growing number of civil servants and local government officers who, like the teachers, distrust the up-

heavals in their organizations and feel their work is undervalued. Many are willing to relinquish a secure salary to embark on a career that offers greater fulfilment.

In the case of Joy and Ian Plumb, it was yet another reorganization of their county social services department that prompted their "escape". The couple, both in their fifties, now run a garden furniture business in the West Country.

Instances of tax inspectors who move over to the private sector to become consultants are common, but we hear less

about professionals in other parts of the public sector who opt for a change of direction. What options are there for environmental health officers, for example?

One former EHO who had got wind of reorganization plans for his department has become a manager in a local brewery. He is now perfectly content to maintain standards of hygiene in his own establishment rather than enforce his views on others.

It may sound as if The Escape Committee is part of a seditious undercover operation that aims to undermine the public services by encouraging defections. But I believe that by encouraging disillusioned individuals to get up and go, the committee

is doing both its clients and the public sector a favour.

There is nothing worse for an organization than to be staffed by a posse of time-servers — people who are no longer motivated by their jobs but plod on to the end in order not to jeopardize their pension rights. This applies to the private sector as well, and explains why some firms seem to be less innovative and enterprising than others.

The flow of experience does not have to be only from the public to the private sector.

Roger Jones is the author of *How to get a job abroad* (Northcote House) £8.95.

The Escape Committee is at Trevaunt House, Zennor, Cornwall TR26 3BD (0736 797061).



Continued from page 20

DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING

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A remuneration package along with international relocation will be negotiated to secure the right person for this superb opportunity.

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Please reply by May 4th 1990 to: Patricia A. Coulson,
Manager International Recruitment,
The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation Limited,
PO Box 199,
90 Bishopsgate,
London EC2P 2LA.

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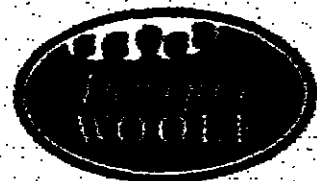
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Please send a full C.V. to Graham Judge, London East Training and Enterprise Council, c/o 11 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DX. Closing date for receipt of applications is 30th April 1990.

The London East Training and Enterprise Council is an equal opportunity employer.



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This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants will be considered and need not re-apply.

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The Regional Manpower Adviser is responsible for developing and managing a wide variety of projects and training programmes concerned with human resource and institutional development in the public and parastatal sectors. The jobholder will be required to travel widely throughout the region, and to work closely with officials of recipient Governments as well as with other ODA advisers, other donor agencies and the British Council. The work calls for excellent communications skills, adaptability and imagination. This is an interesting and challenging post with advisory responsibilities for an important component of the total aid programme to the region.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be British Citizens with a professional qualification in either human resources development, organisational development, manpower economics or training and development. Experience in management consultancy or research related to organisational development and training, will be an advantage, as will experience of working in a third world country.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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BRITAIN HELPING NATIONS TO HELP THEMSELVES

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Peterborough Salary neg. up to £30,000 + bonus

A subsidiary of an electrical and mechanical engineering group, committed to both organic and acquisitional growth, has an excellent opportunity for a highly effective Sales & Marketing Director. The Company, which has an emphasis on Total Quality, manufacture and market worldwide a large range of Digital Readouts, Transducers and ancillary equipment for precision measurement - primarily for the machine tool and metrology industries.

The management team is consolidating the Company's position in the world market and has recently opened offices in the Far East and the USA. Further operational activities are planned for South America. We now require an experienced Director to spearhead our sales drive and to broaden the customer base for our product range.

Ideally, you will have a degree/HNC in mechanical engineering and be able to demonstrate a successful track record with a background in the machine tool or metrology industry. Aged 30-45, you will possess the necessary interpersonal skills, tenacity, imagination and drive to make a major contribution to the business.

In addition to an attractive salary, the package offered includes a performance related bonus, company car and other benefits.

Applicants should forward a full C.V. to:
D. M. Hughes, Group Personnel Executive,
B. Elliott plc, Elliott House, Victoria Road, London. NW10 6NY



Head of Training Support Up to £27k

The NHS Training Authority is a £12m business which contributes to improved health care by helping to establish ways of training staff which make them more effective.

We want to recruit a Head of Training Support to be responsible for the operational management of the Authority's residential training facilities, and associated activities, programmes and projects. The postholder will report to the Director of Training Resources and will have plenty of opportunities to contribute to the formulation of strategy for this new Division of the Authority, which is particularly concerned with implementation and dissemination.

You will be a graduate or equivalent with experience of training or education management and curriculum development. A good grasp of current training issues will be essential. You will need the ability to oversee gross expenditure in excess of £3.5m and income in excess of £2.5m and to share in the management of a staff of about 120. You should be committed to the aims of the National Health Service.

The post will be based at Eastwood Park, Falfield, near Bristol, but a certain amount of travelling will also be involved. An attractive car leasing scheme is in operation. A pay rise is pending and we will shortly be introducing performance-related pay.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Christine Soughton, Personnel Officer, NHS Training Authority, St Bartholomew's Court, 18 Christmas Street, Bristol, BS1 5BT. Tel: (0272) 291029, ext. 241 or 298578 (24 hour service).

Closing date for receipt of applications will be 27th April, 1990.

NHSTA is aiming to become an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**NHS Training
Authority**



Programmers

UNIX

'C'

RDBMS

London

c£26,000

We are able to offer a superb opportunity to join a major international Media Group as it embarks on implementing a new IT strategy. This will produce an advanced network based on mini or super-micros with applications being developed in both 'C' and INGRES under UNIX, supporting all aspects of the business.

As a consequence exceptionally challenging vacancies exist for Programmers with proven skills in 'C' and UNIX, with the emphasis being on your real practical capabilities. We are particularly interested in applicants who also have exposure to INGRES (or other RDBMS such as ORACLE, INFORMIX etc) as the strategy calls for the full integration of all applications.

Whilst your technical skills are of paramount importance it must also be stressed that these positions will require good inter-personal capabilities as well as the ability, or potential, to function as an analyst when required. However, full training will be provided if you do not possess these skills already.

The nature of the business is fast-moving, reactive and demanding. This means it is essential that you demonstrate both flexibility in all aspects of the applications development process and vision (to see the challenge and variety of working in many different areas of the business).

It is envisaged that remuneration will not be a problem for quality applicants with the skills we require. The salary indicated is negotiable depending on experience and the benefits are excellent including six weeks annual leave.

We have no doubt about the quality and challenge of these opportunities, and you won't either once you find out the details. In the first instance you should contact either: Steve Austin or Richard Penner

JAMES BAKER ASSOCIATES
International Personnel Consultants

32 Saville Row, London W1X 1AG. Tel: 01-439 9311 (24 hours). Fax: 01-437 3037

ENGINEERING BUSINESS MANAGER

To £30,000 + Car + Generous Package

We are a leading engineering consultancy working at the forefront of several different technologies. Our professional and technical supremacy has resulted in a long standing, world wide reputation as a centre of excellence.

Due to reorganisation we need an exceptional individual who will manage an £8.5m facility, a £5.5m capital investment programme and supported by a team of experienced engineers, a 300% increase in turnover.

An ambitious leader with drive and diplomacy, you will have chartered status and a solid mechanical engineering background ideally including thermofluids or aerodynamics. Your extensive project management experience will include a strong commercial flair, financial control and human resource administration.

We will offer the successful applicant a salary to £30,000, company car, profit share scheme, pension plan, private health insurance, full relocation as appropriate, five weeks holiday and distinct promotional prospects.

For further information and a confidential interview contact our retained consultant Peter Hobbey on 021 427 4255 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. or send your C.V. to him at:

The Selection Partnership
Grays Court, 17 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NT

Cambridge 0223 203151 **TSP** Manchester 061 969 1471
Milton Keynes 0908 774174

Senior Systems Programmer

London

Up to £32K + Benefits

An outstanding opportunity has arisen within a major International Media organisation for a Senior Systems Programming professional. You will be joining the Group at an exciting time as it embarks on the implementation of a new I.T. strategy.

The existing systems are based around a conventional IBM compatible mainframe environment, however development plans include full utilisation of the latest Open Systems technology and relational database facilities.

It is envisaged that the IBM mainframe environment will remain the central element in the strategy and its continued technical support and development is essential. Consequently, your experience must include exposure to an MVS type operating system as well as a selection of the following products: COBOL, CICS, VSAM, TSO, JCL, ROSCOE, EASYTRIEVE, JES2, RACF, NETMASTER and CA/1.

To maximise on the real challenge of the opportunity however, you will need to grasp (and provide solutions for) the technical issues relating to an advanced Open Systems environment. Therefore relevant experience using UNIX or RDBMS (such as INGRES, ORACLE, INFORMIX) will be of particular interest.

Good communication skills are essential to work in this small team which is responsible for evolving the company's technical direction, and ensuring it meets the stated business objectives.

For further information, either send a full CV or telephone and ask for Steve Austin or Richard Fenner.

JAMES BAKER ASSOCIATES
International Personnel Consultants

32 Savile Row, London W1X 1AG. Tel: 01-439 9311 (24 hours). Fax: 01-437 3037

Sales & Marketing Director

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

££30k -

Backed by a public group, our client is a highly respected and established manufacturer of "niche" market electronic components.

Our requirement is for an experienced Sales and Marketing Director to drive the sale of the company's products throughout the UK and export markets.

Aged 30-45 the ideal candidate will be used to operating in a "design-in" environment and will have a track record in sales/marketing management within the electronic components market. A technical qualification is essential as is the ability and enthusiasm to develop the company.

The successful candidate will enjoy an excellent salary/remuneration package, which will include relocation assistance where necessary. Promotional prospects will be realistic for the right candidate.

Contact JULIA HEWETT on 0582 450054. Quoting ref: SMD/JH - 24 hours.



TECHNICAL RECRUITMENT LIMITED
26-34 LIVERPOOL ROAD LUTON LU1 1RS TEL: (0582) 450054 FAX: (0582) 458665
Luton, Watlington, Dunstable, Milton

Allied Dunbar Recruitment Forum 90

A preview for a career in Financial Planning Consultancy

As we enter a new decade the continuing growth of the Financial Services Industry appears to be assured. Allied Dunbar - an acknowledged leader in the Financial Services Industry offer a unique opportunity for you to look at a possible career within the industry. Allied Dunbar is justifiably proud of its record of growth and success since its inception and the professionalism of its self-employed Sales Associates.

Allied Dunbar extend an invitation to you to attend a seminar in one of our leading branches to see for yourself the facilities we can offer you, that have put the company in the forefront of the Financial Services Industry.

A Career Preview - Thursday 26th April will be held at the following branches:-

Essex 0277 632244 Surrey 0483 33633
Peterborough 0733 555212 N. W. London 01 954 7411
Northwood 0923 835555 Watford 0923 244244
Sussex 0483 33633

The career preview will provide you with insight on:-

- * The Company * The Products * The Role
- * The Training * The Rewards

The preview will start at 7.00 pm and the presentation will be approximately one and a half hours. Light refreshments will be included.

If you have evidence of previous career success and would wish to attend any of the career previews or obtain more information please contact any of the above branches on the phone numbers given.

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc is an Equal Opportunities Group



DIRECT SERVICES MANAGER

Up to £27,500

We need an enthusiastic, imaginative and commercially minded self-starter to manage our Direct Services Unit. With an annual turnover of £2.7 million and 151 employees, this is a business which expects to get results and win contracts. We already have a successful track record with Malvern Hills District Council and other public authorities.

A bold and adventurous approach is required, and excellent communication and leadership skills, energy and drive are all essential. If you are looking for a challenge and believe you can lead this winning team to even greater success, please get in touch.

You can expect a range of benefits including a choice of company hire car or essential user allowance, and an excellent pension package.

For an informal chat, call the Chief Executive, Martin Jones, or the present Direct Services Manager, Nigel Christie on 0884 882700.

Application forms and further details from Carol Gales, Personnel Officer, Malvern Hills District Council, Council House, Avenue Road, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 3AA, telephone (0884) 882700 ext 2204.

Closing date: 4th May 1990.

Malvern Hills District Council

THE SUNDAY TIMES

A BOLDER PERSON FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE Advertising Sales £17,000

We are a company that makes things happen! We have opportunities within the Classified Advertising Telesales Department (dealing with Four National Newspapers) for bright, tenacious, ambitious and enthusiastic people.

Previous sales experience is not essential, but your persuasive and enthusiastic manner is! You will be working in a new technology environment - so you must be able to type - at least 30 wpm, and be aged between 20 & 30.

After an intensive two week training course, you will join one of the close knit specialist teams dealing with other Appointments, Motors, Property or Features advertising. The prospects are excellent, and an unbeatable bonus potential plus generous basic salary, together with 6 weeks holiday and free medical insurance are just a few of the benefits we offer.

We are the market leaders in our field - so only the best need apply to

Pamela Hamilton on 01-782 7133, 01-782 7878 or 01-782 7759.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SALES DIRECTOR

Industrial Automation Systems

Luton

Harland Simon Automation Systems Limited, a member of the successful Harland Simon Group of Engineering Companies, are seeking a Sales Director to control and direct a sales team in both the UK and overseas markets.

This is a key role in the further expansion of project based automation system supply to automotive, food, chemicals, paper and printing industries.

The Director will significantly expand the existing sales department, developing and directing the team with key sector/client accounts to achieve substantial growth in business volume.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of successful sales to the above-mentioned industries of PLC/PC/mini based systems and be a leader with experience of man-management. Salary and benefits commensurate to the task.

Please reply by sending your full CV to Leslie Simpson, Chamberlains Personnel Services at our Bletchley office.

Forest House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley MK3 8ES.
Tel: (0908) 366766. Fax: (0908) 366767

CHAMBERLAINS

RECRUITMENT DIVISION

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

leading to

BOARD APPOINTMENT

circa £30,000
+ Benefits
Home Counties

For a 10 M. turnover private company in the Department Store and Allied Services sector - which is currently negotiating to expand its existing commercial activities.

You will assume responsibility for the accounting function of some 20 staff, and in addition to day to day management, you will play a key role in the development and implementation of financial planning and budgetary and merchandise controls.

Probably aged 28 to 40 and a qualified accountant you will have excellent management and communication skills together with the enthusiasm and commitment to make a positive and practical contribution to the profitable development of the company.

Please write enclosing your C.V. and indication of current salary to:-

David Hopson, Chairman,
Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd.,
Northbrook Street, Newbury RG13 1DN.

We are an International Trading Company with companies in West Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Spain. Our main business purpose is in the trading of electronic components. We employ about 500 peoples, with a turnover of £ 80 M. For our new activities in UK, with office near London, we need an experienced

sales manager

Our suppliers are worldwide leading manufacturers of semiconductors and quartz crystal products mainly suitable for telecom and consumer electronics.

As our sales manager, you will be responsible for promotion and sales at the OEM account in UK. For technical and marketing support, you will be able to rely on the European specialists of our head office located in Switzerland, with whom you will have very close contact.

We are also interested in the possibility of taking over a small trading company, already working as a representative in the field of electronic components.

If you are interested in this challenge, please send your curriculum vitae and short resume in English to:

AXCO AG, Bahnstrasse 58/60
8105 Regensdorf / Switzerland
Personal attention Mr. P. Hersberger
or call Switzerland 01041 843 33 40

AXCO Member of the MOOR Group

Are you at the crossroads of your career?

Very often executives and other professional people contemplate a change right in the middle of their careers.

Most often their reasons for this are a general dissatisfaction with their present career and the belief that they could and should be doing better.

Chusid Lander is a group of specialist career consultants who for many years have been helping people - men and women earning £20,000 a year, or more, to get better jobs - whether they are currently in a job, unemployed or facing redundancy.

We have turned pessimism into optimism, failure into success and paved executives into highly successful people earning very much more - and we can do it for you.

For many years, we have been guiding people in the right direction - now it's your turn! In arrange an early confidential appointment without obligation, telephone your nearest office, (24 hour answering service in London) or send us your cv:

LONDON 01-580 6771 BIRMINGHAM 01-225 0900
REDBURN 0277 65936 GLASGOW 041-222 2442
CARDIFF 0930 63176 LEEDS 0532 40262
EDINBURGH 01-452 8590 LONDON-HOBBERS 01-452 8590

CHUSID LANDER
35/37, Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5AF

SALES OPPORTUNITIES

* Throughout the UK
* International company
* Established/Well structured
* Full training provided
* No age limits

I would like to tell you more about this opportunity. Please call Les on 01-281 7007

During office hours or 01-551 4785

Evening/weekends or send your CV to:

Colin Houghton, 12 New Watlington Street, London W11 2TY or fax on 01-407 2591

Healthcare No Fee

HEALTHCARE

We have opportunities for healthcare, finance and accounting professionals.

Call or submit resumes to:

Sue Lee, South Cheshire Ltd, Howard House, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

London W11 2TY

01-224 6696

SALES & MARKETING

ARE YOU A MANAGER CONSULTANT?

Income Range £35k - £45k

Are you a manager consultant? Do you have experience in sales and marketing? Do you have experience in management consulting? Do you have experience in business development? Do you have experience in client relations? Do you have experience in project management? Do you have experience in financial management? Do you have experience in human resources management? Do you have experience in information technology management? Do you have experience in legal management? Do you have experience in public relations management? Do you have experience in quality management? Do you have experience in risk management? Do you have experience in strategic management? Do you have experience in systems management? Do you have experience in training management? Do you have experience in operations management? Do you have experience in procurement management? Do you have experience in facilities management? Do you have experience in maintenance management? Do you have experience in safety management? Do you have experience in security management? Do you have experience in environmental management? Do you have experience in social responsibility management? Do you have experience in corporate governance management? Do you have experience in compliance management? Do you have experience in anti-money laundering management? Do you have experience in data protection management? Do you have experience in intellectual property management? Do you have experience in trademark management? Do you have experience in patent management? Do you have experience in copyright management? Do you have experience in design right management? Do you have experience in database right management? Do you have experience in sui generis right management? Do you have experience in moral rights management? Do you have experience in related rights management? Do you have experience in neighbouring rights management? Do you have experience in performers' rights management? 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To help us to develop our business in line with an agreed 5-year framework we wish to appoint several senior Business Development Managers. Successful applicants will take responsibility for the planning and implementation of strategic campaigns. They will be expected to prepare business plans for approval by the Board, and to work closely with the relevant professional departments to ensure their long term success. This activity is a key element of our corporate development programme and your career prospects will be outstanding.

To apply you will need to have a good degree in engineering or science and have several years experience in the marketing of consultancy services or contract R&D. You should have a track record of successful project management and be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills at all levels.

We are looking for exceptional individuals and we recognise that you will expect to receive a corresponding remuneration and benefits package. If you would like to apply, please contact Mike Thompson enclosing your CV and any other information which you feel to be relevant.

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the telecommunications or computer industry, a significant element of which will have included the successful management of major sales accounts.

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Our client, a highly reputable and well established City based organisation seeks a professional Fund Manager to manage an expanding team investing in the European markets.

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Our client offers a competitive salary plus an excellent range of benefits, including low interest mortgage, company car, private medical insurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

Curriculum Vitae are invited in the strictest confidence to:

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081-741 9595

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Corporate Relations Manager

East Midlands Electricity plc is one of the leading electricity companies, formed as part of the proposed privatisation of electricity. The pursuit of excellence and innovation are a high priority, particularly in the field of customer service. It is now seeking a Corporate Relations Manager to take responsibility for its public, external and media relations and its public affairs activities at this exciting and important time in its history.

The Corporate Relations Manager will be responsible, to a Director, for continuously improving the reputation of the Company both locally and nationally. He/she will not only be responsible for media and public relations and certain key publications (including the Annual Report and Accounts), but will also advise the Directors on policies designed to enhance the Company's image and ensure continued development of its reputation for excellence in customer service.

The Corporate Relations Department provides a full range of corporate and public relations services to each of the sectors of the Company. It also contributes to effective internal communications through the publication of a monthly staff newspaper and team briefing.

The post, therefore, calls for a widely-experienced Corporate Relations professional with a background in a plc environment at a senior level. Applicants should have

a wide experience of relations with the media locally and nationally, but should also be capable of organising major functions, commissioning printed material, and writing executive speeches. The ability to prepare, present and deliver a coherent cost effective corporate relations strategy will be one of the distinguishing features of the successful candidate. Sound judgement, and strategic and tactical planning skills are also essential, as is the capacity to meet tight deadlines and strict budgets.

The salary will be in the range of £35,000-£45,000 (plus car and bonus). Our head office is located in an attractive and very convenient spot on the north edge of Nottingham and relocation assistance may be available in appropriate circumstances.

Please forward comprehensive CV with full supporting documentation to Mr S M Errington, Director of Personnel, East Midlands Electricity plc, 398 Coppice Road, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7HX by 23rd April 1990, quoting vacancy number EM/100/80. Further details are available by telephoning 0602 289711.

East Midlands Electricity plc is an equal opportunity employer and positively encourages applicants regardless of sex, race, disability or marital status.



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technology and structured methods presents a challenging environment. High calibre, numerate graduate-based staff currently provide an informal friendly atmosphere and the stimulus for career growth.

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If you are interested in finding out more about these first-class opportunities, telephone or write, quoting reference IT 112-ST, to Ian Mailly, Director, IT Direction Limited, 20-22 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EB. Telephone 01-242 0077 (24-hour answering service). Fax 01-405 0444.

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Please send your full CV with details of your current salary to:

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(circa £35,000 + car) at the centre of training & enterprise

Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) are currently being established nationally to develop and implement future policies for Training and Enterprise at local levels.

The Central England TEC is one of the independent companies being formed as part of this initiative. The Board of Directors of this newly formed company, which covers the areas of Solihull, Redditch, Bromsgrove and the Wyre Forest, consists of leaders of business and public administration.

The Company will deliver value for money training and enterprise initiatives to an area which has a working population of 170,000. The Chief Executive will be responsible for implementing and delivering training and enterprise programmes.

He/she will develop Central England TEC within the framework established by the Board, the main tasks being initiatives to fulfil the enterprise objectives of the Council and to introduce programmes to improve the extent and effectiveness of training. Central to this is the need to develop relationships at senior level with Industry, Employers, academia, local authorities and the media.

The post requires a credible experienced executive with drive, enthusiasm, strong business management and marketing skills. Interpersonal skills will also be critical as the successful candidate will be required to negotiate with and influence external organisations. Some experience in the private sector would be advantageous but not essential. The successful candidate is likely to be educated to at least Honours degree level and will probably be aged at least 35.

Please send full C.V. and details of your current salary to:

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As Regional Manager you will be heading up a 100-strong team which provides the back-up services of sales administration, warehouse and transport, service centre and installation. The latest computerised systems and a strong management team will ensure you maintain efficient day-to-day operations whilst your own innovation, foresight and practical experience will enable you to develop the policies to handle our continuing growth.

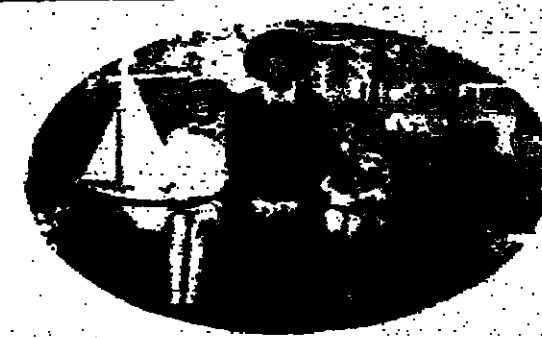
The post offers excellent scope for personal development and job satisfaction, taking professional and practical skills to the full. Relevant experience in a customer service environment is essential and must demonstrate proven organisational skills, coupled with the ability to manage a multi-discipline team. Professional qualifications in transport and distribution will be a distinct advantage.

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The Manager will report directly to the International Sales Director and will be responsible for the planning, control and development of sales within Europe through an existing network of Agents and national managers.

Fluent in at least two other major European languages, the successful candidate should also possess a significant record of sale achievement within the fashion clothing or accessories business. Good interpersonal and organisation skills are important.

Extensive travel within Europe will be fundamental to the position offered.

WAREHOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The Manager, who will report to the Production Director, must be able to demonstrate a strong record of achievement in Distribution Management, being able to develop and control all warehouse and distribution operations in order to meet all customer sales order and delivery requirements within an agreed budget.

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- Preparation of monthly management accounts
- Advising the Board generally on the implications of the information generated.
- Preparation of final accounts for audit.
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The business is registered under the Financial Services Act, and the successful candidate will be expected to deal with compliance matters under the Act (although previous experience is not necessarily expected).

The business operates partly in Spain, and any familiarity with Spanish accountancy or legal systems will be an asset.

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The successful candidate must have:

1. An overall understanding of the international petroleum markets and the ability to write market reports built up through several years of experience in the oil industry at an international level in the field of oil economics, research and analysis.

2. A strong knowledge of price monitoring of the main international oil markets.

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An attractive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience will reflect very competitive levels within the oil industry. There is ample scope for personal development and rewards are measured strictly in line with the working attitude and performance of the selected individual.

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Please write, enclosing full CV to Geoffrey Willes, Managing Director, marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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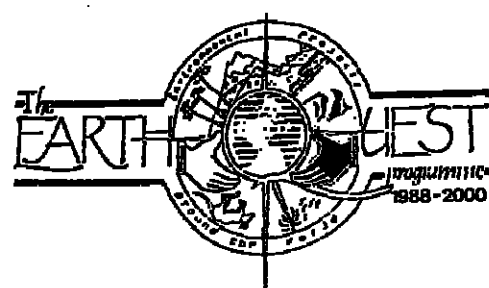
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Back to the future?

Industrial strife of the scale common in the UK in the 1970s has steadily declined in the last decade. By the end of the 1980s, the "British disease" seemed to have been cured and trade union dragons tamed.

Yet the first suggestions that perhaps things have not changed after all are now being made. There has been an upsurge in the number of strikes, most notably in the engineering sector, and wage award levels have started to set the Government's nerves a-jangle.

George Bain, principal of London Business School and an academic working in the industrial relations field, believes it may be a little early to be certain of where the trend is leading, but undoubtedly things will be different. The question is how far changes in industrial-relations practice during the 1980s will stick.

Professor Bain says: "Industrial relations in many areas are driven by many things and combinations of things. But you can put these under two broad headings—economics and politics, and often, of course, those are related."

"So when people began saying in the early 1980s that there was some kind of new realism, a permanent shift, and that trade unions had gone out of fashion, I did not believe it. The advent of Mrs Thatcher and monetarist economics together with massive unemployment was what was driving the change then."

And the renewed upsurge in industrial action, Prof Bain argues, is also a direct response to changing circumstances.

"I do not think we will see a return to 1970s-style militancy, he says. "But if we really are

The 1980s were a crucial decade for changing attitudes in industrial relations. But how long-lasting will those changes be and what is the outlook for the 1990s? George

Bickerstaffe talks to George Bain (right), principal of London Business School



coming to a period of changing economics and a changing political situation, I predict there will be changes in industrial relations, too.

"Strikes, for example, are determined by the level of prices and real wages. When you get inflation, you get militancy and industrial action; workers seek to protect their standard of living."

The recent higher level of wage awards by companies is a response to this, and is, Prof Bain says, one of the few strategies that companies can adopt, especially those affected by skills shortages or demographic influences.

"Strikes are only one part of industrial relations," he says. "If you look back at the 1980s, you can see the growth of closer relations between companies and employees. Companies have taken a more strategic approach to the whole area of human resource management. They have realized that the only sustainable competitive advantage they have is their employees—almost everything else can be quickly copied."

"In the last decade, companies began to invest much more in their people. The interesting ques-

tion is whether, if the economy begins to turn down, they will continue to do that or, as in the past, will the training and human-resource budgets be the first to be cut? There are some signs that companies are cutting."

Prof Bain believes that a not dissimilar change in attitude also swept through trade unions in the 1980s in the way they related to their members. They began to consider them customers or clients rather than "cannon fodder". That is likely to be a permanent change, Prof Bain believes.

Similarly, he thinks that many union leaders, and the Labour Party, if it returns to power, will be reluctant to give up Conservative legislation on union activity. "If you ask why Mrs Thatcher was successful in introducing industrial legislation where Mr Heath failed," he says, "I think the answer is the economic context and the fact that Mrs Thatcher learnt from previous mistakes. She introduced laws piecemeal, rather than trying to bring in everything in one single bill."

"In 1979, I would not have

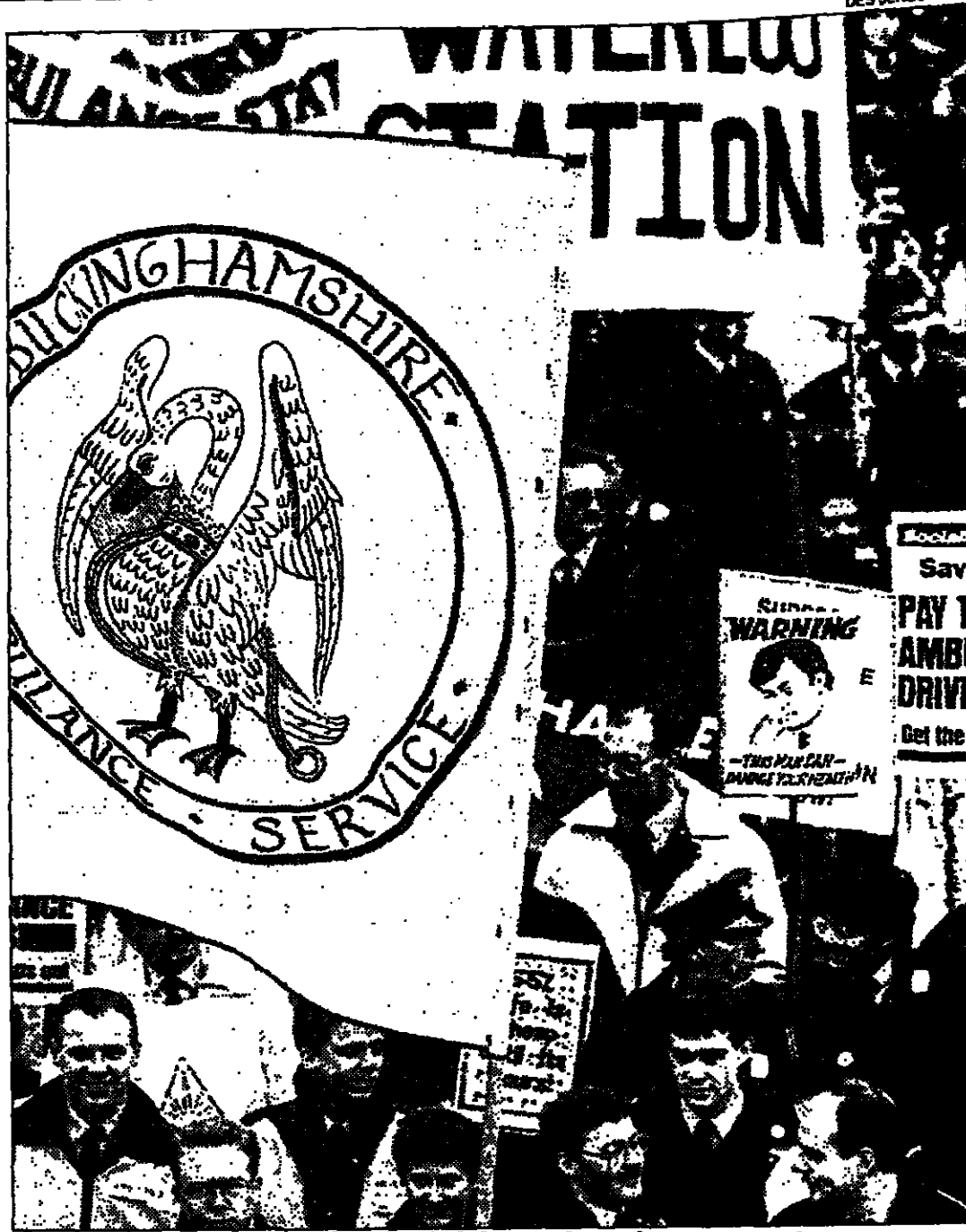
predicted that trade unions would learn to live with the law. The 1980s once and for all changed union attitudes to the law. They have accepted its inevitability in industrial relations, and to some extent have learnt how to turn it to their advantage, as in strike ballots and some other areas. I think that is a permanent shift, too. I do not see any going back."

This new-found fondness for legal solutions will have important political and economic consequences, Prof Bain says. Regulations from Brussels will, he thinks, increasingly affect British industrial relations.

"The positions of the two major political parties have virtually reversed themselves on the issue of Europe," he says. "In the 1970s, Labour was broadly anti-Europe, the Conservatives broadly pro-Europe. One likely reason the Labour Party has begun to favour Europe is the push for social legislation. And from the union point of view, many Continental countries, particularly West Germany, have a lot of positive labour legislation."

"One of the not-so-hidden agendas of the single European market is providing 'level playing fields'. Countries at the higher end of the field, such as the Germans, want things such as high social benefits, high wages and high security of employment to be spread throughout the EC."

That influence from Europe will inevitably increase if political change brings Labour to power in the 1990s. "If that were to happen," Prof Bain says, "the biggest change might be a legislative framework based on a series of positive rights rather than negative immunities."



A return to Seventies-style industrial action: Ambulance workers and supporters march in London

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We require a 30-35 year old dynamic person who is prepared to adopt a shirt sleeves approach in his work philosophy and who can operate in a team. We expect candidates to be computer literate and although previous experience in the financial service industry is not specifically required we would prefer our candidates to have at least a working knowledge of financial services.

Remuneration is c.£25,000 + benefits

Applicants should send letters and a full curriculum vitae to Box C44.

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EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT JOB HUNTING BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

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For more than 40 years, Robert Half have specialised in financial recruitment, throughout commerce, industry and public practice; and in this free seminar, our Consultants will share their expertise with you, addressing key career planning issues, guiding you through your options and providing concrete advice on a wide range of topics including:

- Career Planning
- Assessing your own marketability
- Identifying available opportunities
- Preparing a CV
- The Interview
- Negotiating the job offer

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Conduit Street, London W1.
THURSDAY 3rd MAY 1990
Drinks & Buffet 6.30pm. Seminar 7.00pm
If you wish to attend, or would like further information please contact Joan Coulter at Robert Half on 01-836 3543, or write to her at Westbury, Walter House, Bedford Street, 418 The Strand, London WC2R 0BR. Fax: 01-836 4942.



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A unique opportunity for a financial professional has been created by Fibronics (UK) Limited, the UK sales and distribution subsidiary of Fibronics International Inc, who are world leaders in the design and manufacture of fiberoptic and other high-bandwidth information transmission and distribution systems.

This important position involves responsibility for the financial operations including preparation of management accounts together with treasury, budgeting, taxation and insurance activities.

The successful candidate will work closely with and report to the Managing Director and produce key management information, liaise with external auditors and develop financial strategies. Close collaboration with the U.S. parent company's Chief Financial Officer will be a vital part of the job.

Fibronics' aggressive growth strategy and FDDI leadership position requires an ambitious accountant who can manage our market share expansion and revenue and profit objectives.

Applications are invited from recently qualified Chartered Accountants, ideally with international firm training and exposure to US accounting procedures.

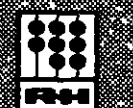
This senior management position offers a very competitive remuneration package based on company results.

Please write, enclosing full C.V. to: Ian Milne, Managing Director.

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Reporting to the Business Unit Financial Controller, and working closely with the Buyers and Merchandisers, the positions will encompass all aspects of financial management. This will involve financial modelling, forecasting, variance analysis and project work—with the emphasis on commercially relevant results.

Ideal candidates will have twelve months' accounting experience, preferably in a commercial environment, proven PC and communication skills and be studying ACCA Level II/CIMA Stage 2. Benefits include company pension scheme, private medical insurance and study assistance.

Please apply directly to Chris Churchman at Robert Half, Freeport, Walter House, Bedford Street, 418 The Strand, London WC2R 0BR. Telephone: 01-836 3545, or evenings on 01-286 8905. Fax: 01-836 4942.

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All are sought by the London offices of major international firms of Chartered Accountants to train in Taxation Consultancy. Roles can be personal, corporate or mixed tax—previous experience is not essential, a proven interest and enthusiasm to train in this field being paramount. Candidates can expect full study support for the Institute of Taxation examinations together with internal technical and management development courses; some offer overseas training courses and there is also the possibility of overseas secondments. High fliers can expect rapid career progression and a diverse number of opportunities e.g. Expatriate tax, Entertainers tax, international corporate tax, etc.

Applicants must have a strong academic record to date, together with a positive, confident manner necessary to succeed in this field. Please contact Della Snape on 01-491 4759.

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The Director will work closely with the General Manager and with Consultants, will contribute financial expertise to decision making at Board level and play a leading part in investment and business planning and in the development of contractual arrangements with purchasing authorities. The Director will be actively involved in the Resource Management Initiative.

Potential candidates may contact: Mr Nigel Crisp for an informal discussion. Further information may be obtained from: the Personnel Department, Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, SL2 4HL. Telephone (0753) 34567. Closing date Friday 11th May.

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As the prize fund for the tennis championships escalates, so does safety expenditure on the centre court

Wimbledon courts the sporting princes

By Andrew Longmore
Tennis Correspondent

OVERALL prize-money for the Wimbledon championships this year will be £3,874,450, an increase of 23 per cent on last year. The winner of the men's singles will pocket a cheque for £230,000, £40,000 more than 1989, while the women's champion will be the richer by £207,000, an increase of £36,000 over last year.

But the increase in prize-money, described by John Curry, the Wimbledon chairman, yesterday as "reflecting the financial success of the tournament", will not just go to the top. No player, from qualifier to finalist, will leave Wimbledon poorer than last year. First-round losers, for example, will receive £3,450, an extra £900 over last year.

In line with other grand slam events, doubles partners will get a bigger share of the prize fund, the men's champions splitting £94,230, nearly £30,000 more than Larry and Fitzgerald won last year. In addition, the daily rate paid to all players to help with the cost of travel and accommodation has risen to £80.

The rises keep Wimbledon ahead of the French Open (about £3.3 million) and the Australian, but behind the United States Open in purely financial terms. It also puts the Wimbledon champion well up in the league of sporting princes. The winner of the British Open golf championship this year will receive £25,000 from a prize fund of £25,000.

"Anyone who wins Wimbledon is an outstanding player and deserves outstanding rewards," Curry said.

WIMBLEDON PRIZE-MONEY

1989 prize-money in brackets

TOTAL PRIZE-MONEY: £3,874,450 (£3,538,746)
MEN'S SINGLES: Winner: £230,000 (£190,000); runner-up: £115,000 (£95,000); quarter-finalists: £57,500 (£47,500); semi-finalists: £28,750 (£23,750); consolation: £14,375 (£11,875); first round losers: £3,450 (£2,550); second round losers: £6,900 (£5,100); third round losers: £10,350 (£7,650); fourth round losers: £13,800 (£10,200); fifth round losers: £17,250 (£12,750); sixth round losers: £20,700 (£15,300); seventh round losers: £24,150 (£17,850); eighth round losers: £27,600 (£20,400); ninth round losers: £31,050 (£22,950); tenth round losers: £34,500 (£25,500); eleventh round losers: £37,950 (£28,050); twelfth round losers: £41,400 (£30,600); thirteenth round losers: £44,850 (£33,150); fourteenth round losers: £48,300 (£35,700); fifteenth round losers: £51,750 (£38,250); sixteenth round losers: £55,200 (£40,800); seventeenth round losers: £58,650 (£43,350); eighteenth round losers: £62,100 (£45,900); nineteenth round losers: £65,550 (£48,450); twentieth round losers: £69,000 (£51,000); twenty-first round losers: £72,450 (£53,550); twenty-second round losers: £75,900 (£56,100); twenty-third round losers: £79,350 (£58,650); twenty-fourth round losers: £82,800 (£61,200); twenty-fifth round losers: £86,250 (£63,750); twenty-sixth round losers: £89,700 (£66,300); twenty-seventh round losers: £93,150 (£68,850); twenty-eighth round losers: £96,600 (£71,400); twenty-ninth round losers: £100,050 (£73,950); thirtieth round losers: £103,500 (£76,500); thirty-first round losers: £106,950 (£79,050); thirty-second round losers: £110,400 (£81,600); thirty-third round losers: £113,850 (£84,150); thirty-fourth round losers: £117,300 (£86,700); thirty-fifth round losers: £120,750 (£89,250); thirty-sixth round losers: £124,200 (£91,800); thirty-seventh round losers: £127,650 (£94,350); thirty-eighth round losers: £131,100 (£96,900); thirty-ninth round losers: £134,550 (£99,450); fortieth round losers: £138,000 (£102,000); forty-first round losers: £141,450 (£104,550); forty-second round losers: £144,900 (£107,100); forty-third round losers: £148,350 (£109,650); forty-fourth round losers: £151,800 (£112,200); forty-fifth round losers: £155,250 (£114,750); forty-sixth round losers: £158,700 (£117,300); forty-seventh round losers: £162,150 (£119,850); forty-eighth round losers: £165,600 (£122,400); forty-ninth round losers: £169,050 (£124,950); fiftieth round losers: £172,500 (£127,500); fifty-first round losers: £175,950 (£130,050); fifty-second round losers: £179,400 (£132,600); fifty-third round losers: £182,850 (£135,150); fifty-fourth round losers: £186,300 (£137,700); fifty-fifth round losers: £189,750 (£140,250); fifty-sixth round losers: £193,200 (£142,800); fifty-seventh round losers: £196,650 (£145,350); fifty-eighth round losers: £200,100 (£147,900); fifty-ninth round losers: £203,550 (£150,450); sixtieth round losers: £207,000 (£153,000); sixty-first round losers: £210,450 (£155,550); sixty-second round losers: £213,900 (£158,100); sixty-third round losers: £217,350 (£160,650); sixty-fourth round losers: £220,800 (£163,200); sixty-fifth round losers: £224,250 (£165,750); sixty-sixth round losers: £227,700 (£168,300); sixty-seventh round losers: £231,150 (£170,850); sixty-eighth round losers: £234,600 (£173,400); sixty-ninth round losers: £238,050 (£175,950); seventieth round losers: £241,500 (£178,500); seventy-first round losers: £244,950 (£181,050); seventy-second round losers: £248,400 (£183,600); seventy-third round losers: £251,850 (£186,150); seventy-fourth round losers: £255,300 (£188,700); seventy-fifth round losers: £258,750 (£191,250); seventy-sixth round losers: £262,200 (£193,800); seventy-seventh round losers: £265,650 (£196,350); seventy-eighth round losers: £269,100 (£198,900); seventy-ninth round losers: £272,550 (£201,450); eightieth round losers: £276,000 (£204,000); eighty-first round losers: £279,450 (£206,550); eighty-second round losers: £282,900 (£209,100); eighty-third round losers: £286,350 (£211,650); eighty-fourth round losers: £289,800 (£214,200); eighty-fifth round losers: £293,250 (£216,750); eighty-sixth round losers: £296,700 (£219,300); eighty-seventh round losers: £300,150 (£221,850); eighty-eighth round losers: £303,600 (£224,400); eighty-ninth round losers: £307,050 (£226,950); ninetieth round losers: £310,500 (£229,500); ninety-first round losers: £313,950 (£232,050); ninety-second round losers: £317,400 (£234,600); ninety-third round losers: £320,850 (£237,150); ninety-fourth round losers: £324,300 (£239,700); ninety-fifth round losers: £327,750 (£242,250); ninety-sixth round losers: £331,200 (£244,800); ninety-seventh round losers: £334,650 (£247,350); ninety-eighth round losers: £338,100 (£249,900); ninety-ninth round losers: £341,550 (£252,450); one hundred round losers: £345,000 (£255,000); one hundred and first round losers: £348,450 (£257,550); one hundred and second round losers: £351,900 (£260,100); one hundred and third round losers: £355,350 (£262,650); one hundred and fourth round losers: £358,800 (£265,200); one hundred and fifth round losers: £362,250 (£267,750); one hundred and sixth round losers: £365,700 (£270,300); one hundred and seventh round losers: £369,150 (£272,850); one hundred and eighth round losers: £372,600 (£275,400); one hundred and ninth round losers: £376,050 (£277,950); one hundred and tenth round losers: £379,500 (£280,500); one hundred and eleventh round losers: £382,950 (£283,050); one hundred and twelfth round losers: £386,400 (£285,600); one hundred and thirteenth round losers: £389,850 (£288,150); one hundred and fourteenth round losers: £393,300 (£290,700); one hundred and fifteenth round losers: £396,750 (£293,250); one hundred and sixteenth round losers: £400,200 (£295,800); one hundred and seventeenth round losers: £403,650 (£298,350); one hundred and eighteenth round losers: £407,100 (£300,900); one hundred and nineteenth round losers: £410,550 (£303,450); one hundred and twentieth round losers: £414,000 (£306,000); one hundred and twenty-first round losers: £417,450 (£308,550); one hundred and twenty-second round losers: £420,900 (£311,100); 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two hundred and fifty-third round losers: £872,850 (£645,200); two hundred and fifty-fourth round losers: £876,300 (£647,750); two hundred and fifty-fifth round losers: £879,750 (£650,300); two hundred and fifty-sixth round losers: £883,200 (£652,850); two hundred and fifty-seventh round losers: £886,650 (£655,400); two hundred and fifty-eighth round losers: £890,100 (£657,950); two hundred and fifty-ninth round losers: £893,550 (£660,500); two hundred and sixtieth round losers: £897,000 (£663,050); two hundred and sixty-first round losers: £900,450 (£665,600); two hundred and sixty-second round losers: £903,900 (£668,150); two hundred and sixty-third round losers: £907,350 (£670,700); two hundred and sixty-fourth round losers: £910,800 (£673,250); two hundred and sixty-fifth round losers: £914,250 (£675,800); two hundred and sixty-sixth round losers: £917,700 (£678,350); two hundred and sixty-seventh round losers: £921,150 (£680,900); two hundred and sixty-eighth round losers: £924,600 (£683,450); two hundred and sixty-ninth round losers: £928,050 (£686,000); two hundred and seventieth round losers: £931,500 (£688,550); two hundred and seventy-first round losers: £934,950 (£691,100); two hundred and seventy-second round losers: £938,400 (£693,650); two hundred and seventy-third round losers: £941,850 (£696,200); two hundred and seventy-fourth round losers: £945,300 (£698,750); two hundred and seventy-fifth round losers: £948,750 (£701,300); two hundred and seventy-sixth round losers: £952,200 (£703,850); two hundred and seventy-seventh round losers: £955,650 (£706,400); two hundred and seventy-eighth round losers: £959,100 (£708,950); two hundred and seventy-ninth round losers: £962,550 (£711,500); two hundred and eightieth round losers: £966,000 (£714,050); two hundred and eighty-first round losers: £969,450 (£716,600); two hundred and eighty-second round losers: £972,900 (£719,150); two hundred and eighty-third round losers: £976,350 (£721,700); two hundred and eighty-fourth round losers: £979,800 (£724,250); two hundred and eighty-fifth round losers: £983,250 (£726,800); two hundred and eighty-sixth round losers: £986,700 (£729,350); two hundred and eighty-seventh round losers: £990,150 (£731,900); two hundred and eighty-eighth round losers: £993,600 (£734,450); two hundred and eighty-ninth round losers: £997,050 (£737,000); two hundred and ninetieth round losers: £1,000,500 (£739,550); two hundred and ninety-first round losers: £1,003,950 (£742,100); two hundred and ninety-second round losers: £1,007,400 (£744,650); two hundred and ninety-third round losers: £1,010,850 (£747,200); two hundred and ninety-fourth round losers: £1,014,300 (£749,750); two hundred and ninety-fifth round losers: £1,017,750 (£752,300); two hundred and ninety-sixth round losers: £1,021,200 (£754,850); two hundred and ninety-seventh round losers: £1,024,650 (£757,400); two hundred and ninety-eighth round losers: £1,028,100 (£759,950); two hundred and ninety-ninth round losers: £1,031,550 (£762,500); two hundred round losers: £1,035,000 (£765,050); two hundred and first round losers: £1,038,450 (£767,600); two hundred and second round losers: £1,041,900 (£770,150); two hundred and third round losers: £1,045,350 (£772,700); two hundred and fourth round losers: £1,048,800 (£775,250); two hundred and fifth round losers: £1,052,250 (£777,800); two hundred and sixth round losers: £1,055,700 (£780,350); two hundred and seventh round losers: £1,059,150 (£782,900); two hundred and eighth round losers: £1,062,600 (£785,450); two hundred and ninth round losers: £1,066,050 (£788,000); two hundred and tenth round losers: £1,069,500 (£790,550); two hundred and eleventh round losers: £1,072,950 (£793,100); two hundred and twelfth round losers: £1,076,400 (£795,650); two hundred and thirteenth round losers: £1,079,850 (£798,200); two hundred and fourteenth round losers: £1,083,300 (£800,750); two hundred and fifteenth round losers: £1,086,750 (£803,300); two hundred and sixteenth round losers: £1,090,200 (£805,850); two hundred and seventeenth round losers: £1,093,650 (£808,400); two hundred and eighteenth round losers: £1,097,100 (£810,950); two hundred and nineteenth round losers: £1,100,550 (£813,500); two hundred and twentieth round losers: £1,104,000 (£816,050); two hundred and twenty-first round losers: £1,107,450 (£818,600); two hundred and twenty-second round losers: £1,110,900 (£821,150); two hundred and twenty-third round losers: £1,114,350 (£823,700); two hundred and twenty-fourth round losers: £1,117,800 (£826,250); two hundred and twenty-fifth round losers: £1,121,250 (£828,800); two hundred and twenty-sixth round losers: £1,124,700 (£831,350); two hundred and twenty-seventh round losers: £1,128,150 (£833,900); two hundred and twenty-eighth round losers: £1,131,600 (£836,450); two hundred and twenty-ninth round losers: £1,135,050 (£839,000); two hundred and thirtieth round losers: £1,138,500 (£841,550); two hundred and thirty-first round losers: £1,141,950 (£844,100); two hundred and thirty-second round losers: £1,145,400 (£846,650); two hundred and thirty-third round losers: £1,148,850 (£849,200); two hundred and thirty-fourth round losers: £1,152,300 (£851,750); two hundred and thirty-fifth round losers: £1,155,750 (£854,300); two hundred and thirty-sixth round losers: £1,159,200 (£856,850); two hundred and thirty-seventh round losers: £1,162,650 (£859,400); two hundred and thirty-eighth round losers: £1,166,100 (£861,950); two hundred and thirty-ninth round losers: £1,169,550 (£864,500); two hundred and fortieth round losers: £1,173,000 (£867,050); two hundred and forty-first round losers: £1,176,450 (£869,600); two hundred and forty-second round losers: £1,179,900 (£872,150); two hundred and forty-third round losers: £1,183,350 (£874,700); two hundred and forty-fourth round losers: £1,186,800 (£877,250); two hundred and forty-fifth round losers: £1,190,250 (£879,800); two hundred and forty-sixth round losers: £1,193,700 (£882,350); two hundred and forty-seventh round losers: £1,197,150 (£884,900); two hundred and forty-eighth round losers: £1,200,600 (£887,450); two hundred and forty-ninth round losers: £1,204,050 (£890,000); two hundred and fiftieth round losers: £1,207,500 (£892,550); two hundred and fifty-first round losers: £1,210,950 (£895,100); two hundred and fifty-second round losers: £1,214,400 (£897,650); two hundred and fifty-third round losers: £1,217,850 (£900,200); two hundred and fifty-fourth round losers: £1,221,300 (£902,750); two hundred and fifty-fifth round losers: £1,224,750 (£905,300); two hundred and fifty-sixth round losers: £1,228,200 (£907,850); two hundred and fifty-seventh round losers: £1,231,650 (£910,400); two hundred and fifty-eighth round losers: £1,235,100 (£912,950); two hundred and fifty-ninth round losers: £1,238,550 (£915,500); two hundred and sixtieth round losers: £1,242,000 (£918,050); two hundred and sixty-first round losers: £1,245,450 (£920,600); two hundred and sixty-second round losers: £1,248,900 (£923,150); two hundred and sixty-third round losers: £1,252,350 (£925,700); two hundred and sixty-fourth round losers: £1,255,800 (£928,250); two hundred and sixty-fifth round losers: £1,259,250 (£930,800); two hundred and sixty-sixth round losers: £1,262,700 (£933,350); two hundred and sixty-seventh round losers: £1,266,150 (£935,900); two hundred and sixty-eighth round losers: £1,269,600 (£938,450); two hundred and sixty-ninth round losers: £1,273,050 (£941,000); two hundred and seventieth round losers: £1,276,500 (£943,550); two hundred and seventy-first round losers: £1,279,950 (£946,100); two hundred and seventy-second round losers: £1,283,400 (£948,650); two hundred and seventy-third round losers: £1,286,850 (£951,200); two hundred and seventy-fourth round losers: £1,290,300 (£953,750); two hundred and seventy-fifth round losers: £1,293,750 (£956,300); two hundred and seventy-sixth round losers: £1,297,200 (£958,850); two hundred and seventy-seventh round losers: £1,300,650 (£961,400); two hundred and seventy-eighth round losers: £1,304,100 (£963,950); two hundred and seventy-ninth round losers: £1,307,550 (£966,500); two hundred and eightieth round losers: £1,311,000 (£969,050); two hundred and eighty-first round losers: £1,314,450 (£971,600); two hundred and eighty-second round losers: £1,317,900 (£974,150); two hundred and eighty-third round losers: £1,321,350 (£976,700); two hundred and eighty-fourth round losers: £1,324,800 (£979,250); two hundred and eighty-fifth round losers: £1,328,250 (£981,800); two hundred and eighty-sixth round losers: £1,331,700 (£984,350); two hundred and eighty-seventh round losers: £1,335,150 (£986,900); two hundred and eighty-eighth round losers: £1,338,600 (£989,450); two hundred and eighty-ninth round losers: £1,342,050 (£992,000); two hundred and ninetieth round losers: £1,345,500 (£994,550); two hundred and ninety-first round losers: £1,348,950 (£997,100); two hundred and ninety-second round losers: £1,352,400 (£999,650); two hundred and ninety-third round losers: £1,355,850 (£1,002,200); two hundred and ninety-fourth round losers: £1,359,300 (£1,004,750); two hundred and ninety-fifth round losers: £1,362,750 (£1,007,300); two hundred and ninety-sixth round losers: £1,366,200 (£1,009,850); two hundred and ninety-seventh round losers: £1,369,650 (£1,012,400); two hundred and ninety-eighth round losers: £1,373,100 (£1,014,950); two hundred and ninety-ninth round losers: £1,376,550 (£1,017,500); two hundred round losers: £1,380,000 (£1,020,050); two hundred and first round losers: £1,383,450 (£1,022,600); two hundred and second round losers: £1,386,900 (£1,025,150); two hundred and third round losers: £1,390,350 (£1,027,700); two hundred and fourth round losers: £1,393,800 (£1,030,250); two hundred and fifth round losers: £1,397,250 (£1,032,800); two hundred and sixth round losers: £1,400,700 (£1,035,350); two hundred and seventh round losers: £1,404,150 (£1,037,900); two hundred and eighth round losers: £1,407,600 (£1,040,450); two hundred and ninth round losers: £1,411,050 (£1,043,000); two hundred and tenth round losers: £1,414,500 (£1,045,550); two hundred and eleventh round losers: £1,417,950 (£1,048,100); two hundred and twelfth round losers: £1,421,400 (£1,050,650); two hundred and thirteenth round losers: £1,424,850 (£1,053,200); two hundred and fourteenth round losers: £1,428,300 (£1,055,750); two hundred and fifteenth round losers: £1,431,750 (£1,058,300); two hundred and sixteenth round losers: £1,435,200 (£1,060,850); two hundred and seventeenth round losers: £1,438,650 (£1,063,400); two hundred and eighteenth round losers: £1,442,100 (£1,065,950); two hundred and nineteenth round losers: £1,445,550 (£1,068,500); two hundred and twentieth round losers: £1,449,000 (£1,071,050); two hundred and twenty-first round losers: £1,452,450 (£1,073,600); two hundred and twenty-second round losers: £1,455,900 (£1,076,150); two hundred and twenty-third round losers: £1,459,350 (£1,078,700); two hundred and twenty-fourth round losers: £1,462,800 (£1,081,250); two hundred and twenty-fifth round losers: £1,466,250 (£1,083,800); two hundred and twenty-sixth round losers: £1,469,700 (£1,086,350); two hundred and twenty-seventh round losers: £1,473,150 (£1,088,900); two hundred and twenty-eighth round losers: £1,476,600 (£1,091,450); two hundred and twenty-ninth round losers: £1,480,050 (£1,094,000); two hundred and thirtieth round losers: £1,483,500 (£1,096,550); two hundred and thirty-first round losers: £1,

Scottish goalkeeper high on Kendall's seasonal buying list

By Ian Ross and Dennis Shaw

HOWARD Kendall, the manager of Manchester City, has begun his preparations for next season, now certain to be in division one, by initiating talks about Andy Goram, Hibernian's Scottish international goalkeeper.

Kendall met Alex Miller, the Hibernian manager, after Tuesday night's game against Celtic and although the talks were informal it is thought likely that the two men will enter into more serious negotiations at the end of the season.

If Kendall is to sign Goram, who joined Hibernian from Oldham Athletic three years ago, he will have to establish a new British record transfer fee for a goalkeeper. Miller values Goram at more than £1.3 million. "I regard him as the best goalkeeper in Britain and I do not want to lose him," Miller said.

If Goram moves to Maine Road, Oldham would stand to collect a six-figure sum as a result of a clause in the deal when he left Boundary Park.

Rangers have emerged as

favourites to sign Gary McAllister, the Leicester City midfielder player. McAllister, a Scot, looks likely to choose the Ibrox club when negotiations for his £1.2 million transfer are stepped up during the closed season.

Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal are among the English clubs who have shown an interest in signing him but the arrival of Rangers on the scene could well be decisive.

David Pleat, the Leicester City manager, said yesterday that there would be no move on McAllister's future at least until the end of the season and that no firm offers had been received. But McAllister's agent confirmed that Rangers had now expressed an interest.

McAllister, who surprised Nottingham Forest earlier in the season by declining to join them after Brian Clough and Pleat had agreed terms, is not showing his hand yet.

When he rejected Forest after discussions with Clough he intimated that he felt that a move across the East Mid-

lands would not be in the best interests of his career. Glasgow could very well be an entirely different proposition.

Clearly Rangers will have a strong pull with their success each season, their regular involvement in Europe and the high terms which they can offer.

Stuart Pearce, the England full back, is poised to sign a new long-term contract with Littlewoods Cup finalists, Nottingham Forest. Forest began talks with him last month soon after his international colleague, Des Walker, agreed to stay for a further three and a half years.

Brighton have opened negotiations with Dynamo Minsk to sign Sergei Gotsmanov, a Soviet international player, on contract for next season. Brighton are willing to pay Minsk around \$200,000 (about £125,000). Gotsmanov, aged 31, has pleased the manager, Barry Lloyd, since joining Brighton two months ago and has quickly become a favourite with the supporters.



Fast bowler turned fast batsman: Cowans wields a stylish bat in making an unbeaten 46 off 23 balls for MCC against Worcestershire at Lord's. Report, page 48

CRICKET

Polished Adams seizes chance for a maiden century

By Jack Bailey

FENNER'S (Cambridge University) won easily; Cambridge University, with all first-innings wickets at hand, are 316 runs behind Derbyshire.

THE sun shone and it was almost cricket weather; and Derbyshire's irregulars graciously accepted the hospitality implicit in Atkinson's invitation to them to bat first. On this evidence the Fenner's pitches are edging their way back to being the sort of beauties on which May, Dexter and Co used to rule the roost.

So Derbyshire swept past 300 at the same time as young Adams, playing in only his ninth first-class match, scored a polished maiden century. Their 322 for four declared left the university with 12 overs to negotiate, a task successfully accomplished.

If Adams, who collected 12 fours during his stay of nearly three and a half hours, was the only batsman to take full advantage, there were several others who showed enough to enjoy themselves. O'Gorman made a brisk 50 from as many balls, an innings full of good strokes which left Barnett in his shadow while 71 were put on for the first wicket.

Barnett found the fielders too often for his liking and his timing was awry, but he stuck at it while O'Gorman and Adams blossomed. And then there was Kuiper. In South Africa, Kuiper is famous as a striker of the ball. Now he gave some inkling of

why that is. An enormous six over mid-wicket off the slow left-arm bowling of Buzza, and eight fours brought him to 50 inside an hour before he played across the tireless Pymon.

Pymon, who also accounted for O'Gorman, shared the four Derbyshire wickets, and almost all the bowling, with Buzza. Pymon has a brisk pace, bowls virtually of the wrong foot, and is in danger of being over-bowled before May is out. Buzza takes less out of himself, but 32 consecutive overs left him with the wrong sort of century to his name, as well as he bowled, and Atkinson might do well to re-think his pattern of bowling changes.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett c Atkinson b Buzza 82
T J O'Gorman c Pymon b Adams 111
C J Adams not out 111
A P Kuiper b Pymon 57
B Buzza b Pymon 34
A M Brown not out 34
Total (4 wickets dec) 322
S C Goldsmith, G Miller, Y S J M Maher, M Jean-Jacques and O H Mortensen did not bat.

BOWLING: Jennings 13-3-47-0; Palmer 8-35-0; Pymon 28-3-54-2; Buzza 28-5-117-2; Lowry 9-1-32-0.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings
P James not out 11
R Hesp not out 3
Extras (b 2) 2
Total (no wicket) 16
M J Lowry, J C M Abansham, M J Morris, A M Hopper, R A Pymon, T H Turner, A M Hopper, R H Hesp and G A Hesp to bat.
Umpires: S B Hesson and R Jullen.

Tavaré interrupts Oxford march

By Ivo Tennant

THE PARKS (Oxford University) won easily; Oxford University, with all first-innings wickets at hand, are 322 runs behind Somerset.

NUMBING coldness disconcerted neither undergraduates nor seasoned professionals at The Parks yesterday. It was indeed an excellent day, Oxford's bowlers bowled morning and afternoon.

Oxford's side is reckoned to be their strongest since the days of Imran Khan and, indeed, Tavaré himself. It is a coincidence that they have available to them two Australians and two South Africans, one of them already a rugby Blue, or are the admissions tutors no longer shrinking by their own myopia? Unquestionably the four concerned are fine sportsmen.

Van der Merwe, no relation to the former South African captain but a Currie Cup cricketer none the less, kept up a brilliant pace for much of the morning and, with Gernans, one of the Australians, had Somerset teetering at 58 for three. It required all of Tavaré's experience and knowledge of this square to pull the innings round.

There was some uneven bounce, the legacy of oil having spilt on the pitch. It should be added that this was to do with faulty machinery rather than renewed support for George Davis Cook and Roebuck began with the first of what should be many sizeable stands this summer before they were beaten by movement and extra bounce respectively.

Hardy immediately sliced an attempted pull at Gernans,

whose strict adherence to line and length could well have gained further wickets. Yet Tavaré and Hardy, in turn, circumspect against him and Van der Merwe, and extravagant when facing Henderson and Crawley, built an important partnership.

Tavaré settled for a score short of three figures, twice offering catches to boundary fielders before he was held at deep square leg. He struck 13 fours, as did Hardie, who was unfortunately injured on a century. Having reached 99 he went for it in the grand manner, only to send up a skier to the bowler, Henderson.

Tavaré left his former university with half-an-hour's batting which, in murky light, they came through unscathed.

SOMERSET: First Innings
S J Cook b Tavaré 28
P J Roebuck c Crawley b Van der Merwe 28
J E Hardy c Adams b Gernans 0
J J Tavaré c Adams b Henderson 0
R J Henderson b Henderson 99
R J Burns not out 32
G A Hesp c Crawley b Turner 32
Extras (b 10, lb 6, w 3, nb 11) 32
Total (6 wickets dec) 329
S A Hesp not out 11
A H Jones not out 11
Total (no wicket) 329

BOWLING: Van der Merwe 17-5-44-1; Henderson 17-1-22-2; Gernans 24-8-56-2; Turner 12-4-41-1; Crawley 13-0-63-0; Wadde 4-1-4-0.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings
A Hagen not out 0
S A Hesp not out 0
Extras (b 2) 2
Total (no wicket) 2
M J Kibben, G Turner, M A Crawley, P O Lum, W M van der Merwe, S D Weeks, I M Henderson, T J McDonald and P Gernans to bat.
Umpires: J D Bond and A G T Whitehead.

Warwickshire supporters will get the chance to bowl at the players in the nets during the club's open afternoon at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Excellent Robins is having his say

By Louise Taylor

MARK Robins is having a say in the concluding stages of both major domestic competitions. Obviously not content with helping Manchester United into the FA Cup final, he scored both goals in a 2-0 win over Aston Villa at Old Trafford on Tuesday night which curtailed the visitor's championship hopes.

Before last night's match between Arsenal and Liverpool, Villa remained one point behind the Merseysiders having played a game more.

Robins, 20, a graduate of the Football Association's national school at Lilleshall, has scored six goals in United's last six matches, four of them after coming off the substitutes' bench.

Charlton Athletic's annual flirtation with relegation since regaining their first division place in 1986, after a 29-year absence, was ended by a 2-1 defeat to Wolves at Selhurst Park on Tuesday.

Ahead by virtue of goals by Wise and Rushman after only eight minutes, Wimbledon were always in command. "It is a sad day," Laurie Lawrence, the Charlton manager, said, "we have had four years in the first division, playing on someone else's ground in front of third division crowds—I do not think that will ever happen again in football. There is no shame in it. Nobody else operates in these circumstances."

He ended speculation about his, and the club's, future as he

added: "Charlton will continue. We went bust in 1984, and we will recover from this setback and challenge again. I am here: I am battling on."

In the second division, West Ham United's renaissance under Billy Davies continued as they moved to within a point of the play-off zone. First-half goals by Allen and Keen not only beat Ipswich Town 2-0, but ended West Ham's unbeaten run to six games. Since Bonds succeeded Lou Macari as manager seven weeks ago, West Ham have won nine of their last 14 League games, losing twice.

At the opposite end of the table, Barnsley collected a potentially precious point by drawing 2-2 at Watford, but Barnsley slipped closer to relegation by losing 3-2 at home to Leicester City.

During that defeat, Holmes, the Barnsley midfielder, became the 17th member of Harry Redknapp's 18-strong squad to require surgery this season; he faces up to six months on the sidelines, leaving an opening to replace a knee ligament injury sustained during the game.

Such a sequence of injuries has debilitated Redknapp's squad to such an extent that their second division finish is in danger of being their last. The defenders, including Kevin Bond, the captain, and Gerry Peyton, the Republic of Ireland international goalkeeper, are presently absent.

Strike six for sorry Linfield

By George Ace

GLENAVON'S stay at the top of the Irish League lasted only a few hours on Tuesday. They leap-frogged over long-time leaders, Portadown, with a 5-0 win in the afternoon against the basement club, Derry, but the Shamrock Park team trounced Newry Town 3-0 in a night match to go one point clear, with two matches remaining.

Linfield crashed to their sixth defeat of the season by Glenavon in as many matches, going down 3-1 at Windsor Park after leading at the interval. Again, the lethal finishing of Glenn Hoggan, who has scored in every match against Linfield this season, was the vital factor in snuffing out Linfield's faint hopes of European football next season.

Macarney put Glenavon ahead on the hour after McCaffrey had levelled the scores in the 56th minute. Spiers—substituted later by McKewen—conceded a free kick on the edge of the area after clumsily bringing Caskey down.

Macarney brought his tally for the season to 38 when he stabbed a low shot into the net following a deep cross by Campbell.

Next Wednesday the teams meet again at the Oval in the Carrowds County Antrim Shield final.

Leading positions: 1, Portadown, played 24, points 42; 2, Glenavon, 24, 46; 3, Glenavon, 24, 43.

The tide turns for Nicolle

By Colin McQuillan

ROSS NORMAN's descent in the game since his victory in the world championship in 1986 reached a new low at Lamb's Club, London, yesterday, when he was efficiently removed from the third round of the ITF British open championships by Jason Nicolle, a young England international, whose previous poor results this season had reduced him to thirteenth in the national rankings.

Nicolle, aged 24, who was controversially selected for England in the world championships last October after a tour of Asia during which he played the best squash of his career, played the eighth-seeded New Zealander, in the back court for most of their 95-minute match. Nicolle won 3-9, 9-2, 9-6, 9-7.

"I lost my way a bit after the world championships," Nicolle said. "I moved to London and had a few personal problems. Now I am back in Nottingham where I can train regularly with good players and I have my off-court discipline back."

Certainly discipline was the key to Nicolle's first victory

over the wiry and experienced Norman, whose dogged pursuit over two seasons ended Jahangir Khan's 5½-year undefeated run in 1986.

Only in the heart of the third and fourth games was Norman able to take over the front court and earn points with his deceptive sharp cross-court work.

"Ross is not quite the mover he was, and my movement today was as good as it was in Asia," Nicolle said. "As long as I kept the game moving and matched my court discipline to my renewed off-court standards, I was in control."

The result removed Norman from Jahangir's path in pursuit of another record, the ninth successive win that would expunge the Australian, Geoff Hunt, from British Open records. Now Nicolle will fight for that quarter-final place against Philip Kenyon, of England, who participated in the birth of Jahangir's career in 1979 when he lost the world final to the then unknown 15-year-old from Karachi.

Jahangir began his record-

seeking campaign yesterday with a conclusive win in straight games over Jamie Hickox.

RESULTS: Men: Third round: S Egozard c B. Brown b P. Kenyon 9-5, 9-3, 9-2, 9-2; Jahangir Khan (Pak) b J. Hickox 9-4, 9-2, 9-4; P. Kenyon (Eng) b P. Whitlock 9-2, 10-8, 9-1; C. Dwyer (Aus) b A. Davies (Wales) 9-0, 9-0, 9-0; J. W. Brown (Eng) b P. Whitlock 9-2, 10-8, 9-1; S. Wight (Eng) b S. Schone (Wales) 9-3, 9-0, 7-5; G. Gervais (Wales) b G. Gervais (Wales) 9-2, 9-4, 9-0, 9-4; S. F. Gervais (Wales) b R. Martin 9-4, 9-4, 9-1.

Chris Dittmar, president of the International Squash Players' Association (ISPA), who was fined a record £5,000 last month for missing the Finnish Open championship, was returned to office unopposed at the ISPA annual meeting at Lamb's Club on Tuesday. The meeting agreed to adopt IOC drug abuse standards, with a £5,000 fine for first offenders and a lifetime ban for a second offence.

An anonymous European promoter has offered the ISPA a £50,000 sponsor for a grand prize final in 1991.

TENNIS

Loosemore strolls on while Durie struggles

From Barry Wood, Singapore

THERE were mixed fortunes for the British camp at the DHI Singapore Open yesterday, with Sarah Loosemore defeating Martina Pavlik of West Germany, 6-0, 6-1, but Jo Durie losing 6-2, 6-3 to Hu Na, who is of Chinese origin, but is now a resident of San Diego.

There is a nagging doubt about the true value of Loosemore's apparently overwhelming victory, for her opponent was dreadful, could hardly hit a ball in court, and often refused to run, a result, perhaps, of playing a gruelling three-hour match the previous day.

When Pavlik did put a couple of decent shots together, Loosemore did not always handle the situation very well. She twice found herself down to game point after leading 4-0.

and more consistent opposition have extracted its toll. Her, she hit her ground strokes extremely well throughout the match, and certainly deserved her victory.

Durie rarely raised herself above the ordinary, but refused to blame her own tough match of the previous day. She was merely disappointed that she had let herself down.

"I'm still very encouraged by this tour," she said. "At least I'm qualifying and playing lots of matches, which is going to do me good in the end."

Nastase competes

The Nastase will be one of the eight players taking part in the Leading Leisure Masters tennis twice a week tournament at Basingstoke next month.

SPORT IN BRIEF

A doughty recovery

ENGLAND'S 16-group rugby union side beat Portugal 23-14 in Farnham yesterday, confirming their good performance against the Italians last weekend.

England recovered from a 10-0 deficit with the help of two tries from Kobayashi, the Hynes' wing.

Island festival

Teams from Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Guernsey, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, Switzerland and West Germany have been invited by The Cricket magazine to play in a limited-overs festival in Guernsey from May 20 to 26.

Radio silence

A penalty against Jellik for failing to report her positions by radio has dropped the European yacht racing team into a share off lead with Hong Kong in the Corum China Sea race series.

Jumper's prize

Julie Bennett, aged 19, the Brighton student who produced the highest ever jump by a British teenager with a clearance at 1.92 metres in the Women's AAA Indoor Championships at Cusford, has won the Miner Athlete of the Month award for March and a £1,000 prize.

Extra coach

ABERTILLERY have increased their rugby union coaching staff from two to three as they prepare for the Heineken National League next season. Richard Barrell will be joined by Mike Cairns, the former club captain, and Adrian Barwood.

Backing for national lottery

By John Winder

AN UNOPPOSED first reading in the Commons yesterday for a Bill which would re-establish a national lottery in Britain will further progress in the House of Commons—of all political persuasions, both in and out of Parliament—as a boost for their campaign.

They will use the easy acceptance of the first reading of a Bill, which has MPs from both sides on its list of sponsors, to step up their fight to establish a lottery to bring in additional money for sport, the arts and environmental causes.

However, the National Lottery Bill, intended to provide £1 billion in extra resources each year, has little chance itself of further progress in the House of Commons—of all political persuasions, both in and out of Parliament—as a boost for their campaign.

Kenneth Hargreaves, Conservative MP for Hyndburn, said that, while the national lottery had been the subject of abuse and had fallen into disrepute by the middle of the last century, new technology and means of communication had again made it a practical proposition.

Other countries had lotteries which had funded the filming of

the Olympic Games and the building of Sydney Opera House and Yale and Harvard Universities.

Britain and Albania were now the only European countries without national lotteries. "There is an urgent need for extra sports facilities for our young people," Hargreaves said. His intention was that the money raised would be in addition to that provided by the Government—not as a substitute for the subsidy.

Other countries had lotteries which had funded the filming of

about compulsive gambling.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

COMMONWEALTH GAMES: 1, S. B. Brown (USA) 100m, 10.2; 2, S. B. Brown (USA) 200m, 21.4; 3, S. B. Brown (USA) 400m, 48.1; 4, S. B. Brown (USA) 800m, 1:58.1; 5, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,600m, 4:11.1; 6, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,200m, 9:01.1; 7, S. B. Brown (USA) 6,400m, 18:01.1; 8, S. B. Brown (USA) 12,800m, 36:01.1; 9, S. B. Brown (USA) 25,600m, 72:01.1; 10, S. B. Brown (USA) 51,200m, 144:01.1; 11, S. B. Brown (USA) 102,400m, 288:01.1; 12, S. B. Brown (USA) 204,800m, 576:01.1; 13, S. B. Brown (USA) 409,600m, 1152:01.1; 14, S. B. Brown (USA) 819,200m, 2304:01.1; 15, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,638,400m, 4608:01.1; 16, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,276,800m, 9216:01.1; 17, S. B. Brown (USA) 6,553,600m, 18432:01.1; 18, S. B. Brown (USA) 13,107,200m, 36864:01.1; 19, S. B. Brown (USA) 26,214,400m, 73728:01.1; 20, S. B. Brown (USA) 52,428,800m, 147456:01.1; 21, S. B. Brown (USA) 104,857,600m, 294912:01.1; 22, S. B. Brown (USA) 209,715,200m, 589824:01.1; 23, S. B. Brown (USA) 419,430,400m, 1179648:01.1; 24, S. B. Brown (USA) 838,860,800m, 2359296:01.1; 25, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,677,721,600m, 4718592:01.1; 26, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,355,443,200m, 9437184:01.1; 27, S. B. Brown (USA) 6,710,886,400m, 18874368:01.1; 28, S. B. Brown (USA) 13,421,772,800m, 37748736:01.1; 29, S. B. Brown (USA) 26,843,545,600m, 75497472:01.1; 30, S. B. Brown (USA) 53,687,091,200m, 150994944:01.1; 31, S. B. Brown (USA) 107,374,182,400m, 301989888:01.1; 32, S. B. Brown (USA) 214,748,364,800m, 603979776:01.1; 33, S. B. Brown (USA) 429,496,729,600m, 1207959552:01.1; 34, S. B. Brown (USA) 858,993,459,200m, 2415919104:01.1; 35, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,717,986,918,400m, 4831838208:01.1; 36, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,435,973,836,800m, 9663676416:01.1; 37, S. B. Brown (USA) 6,871,947,673,600m, 19327352832:01.1; 38, S. B. Brown (USA) 13,743,895,347,200m, 38654705664:01.1; 39, S. B. Brown (USA) 27,487,786,694,400m, 77309411328:01.1; 40, S. B. Brown (USA) 54,975,573,388,800m, 154618822656:01.1; 41, S. B. Brown (USA) 109,951,146,777,600m, 309237645312:01.1; 42, S. B. Brown (USA) 219,902,293,555,200m, 618475290624:01.1; 43, S. B. Brown (USA) 439,804,587,110,400m, 1236950581248:01.1; 44, S. B. Brown (USA) 879,609,174,220,800m, 2473901162496:01.1; 45, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,759,218,348,441,600m, 4947802324992:01.1; 46, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,518,436,696,883,200m, 9895604649984:01.1; 47, S. B. Brown (USA) 7,036,873,393,766,400m, 19791209299968:01.1; 48, S. B. Brown (USA) 14,073,746,787,532,800m, 39582418599936:01.1; 49, S. B. Brown (USA) 28,147,493,575,065,600m, 79164837199872:01.1; 50, S. B. Brown (USA) 56,294,987,150,131,200m, 158329674399744:01.1; 51, S. B. Brown (USA) 112,589,974,300,262,400m, 316659348799488:01.1; 52, S. B. Brown (USA) 225,179,948,600,524,800m, 633318697598976:01.1; 53, S. B. Brown (USA) 450,359,897,201,049,600m, 1266637395197952:01.1; 54, S. B. Brown (USA) 900,719,794,402,099,200m, 2533274790395904:01.1; 55, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,801,439,588,804,198,400m, 5066549580791808:01.1; 56, S. B. Brown (USA) 3,602,879,177,608,396,800m, 10133099161583616:01.1; 57, S. B. Brown (USA) 7,205,758,355,216,793,600m, 20266198323167232:01.1; 58, S. B. Brown (USA) 14,411,516,710,433,587,200m, 40532396646334464:01.1; 59, S. B. Brown (USA) 28,823,033,420,867,174,400m, 81064793292668928:01.1; 60, S. B. Brown (USA) 57,646,066,841,734,348,800m, 162129586585337856:01.1; 61, S. B. Brown (USA) 115,292,133,683,468,697,600m, 324259173170675712:01.1; 62, S. B. Brown (USA) 230,584,267,366,937,395,200m, 648518346341351424:01.1; 63, S. B. Brown (USA) 461,168,534,733,874,790,400m, 1297036692682702848:01.1; 64, S. B. Brown (USA) 922,337,069,467,749,580,800m, 2594073385365405696:01.1; 65, S. B. Brown (USA) 1,844,674,138,935,499,161,600m, 518

